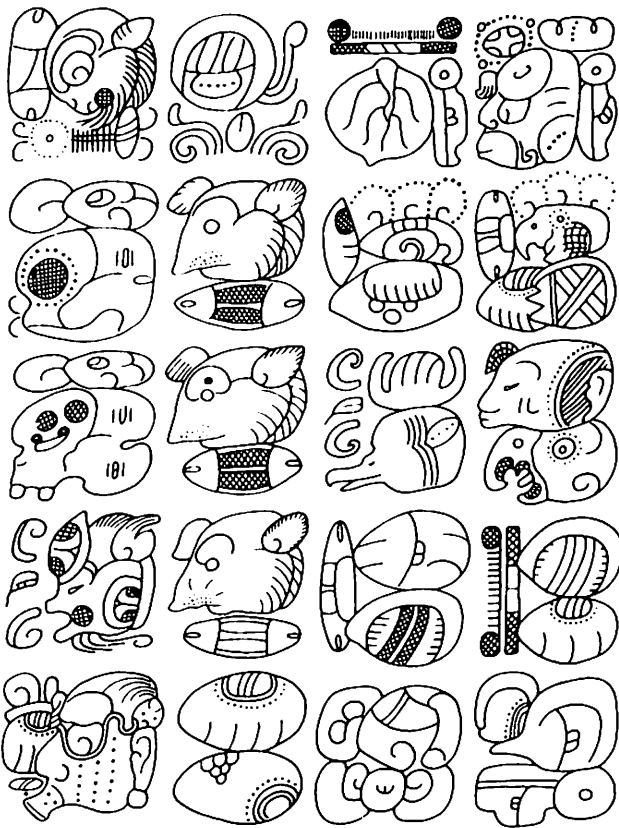


CORPUS OF **MAYA**  
HIEROGLYPHIC INSCRIPTIONS



VOLUME 9 PART 1 PIEDRAS NEGRAS



CORPUS  
OF  
MAYA  
HIEROGLYPHIC  
INSCRIPTIONS

*Volume 9 Part 1*

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We also extend our deep thanks to the University of Pennsylvania Museum for their permission to reproduce photographs of Stelae 2, 9, and 12 from their archives. Charles S. Kline, photographic archivist at the museum, was of immense aid in processing our initial lengthy request for prints. Thanks go also to Justin Kerr for granting permission to reproduce his image of Stela 6. In the Peabody Museum, India Spartz of Photographic Archives helped us to find numerous images from the files of Teobert Maler and the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Gregory Finnegan and Janet Steins of the Tozzer Library at Harvard University aided us in tracking down the remarkable undergraduate thesis of William Godfrey, with its important and unique photographs of Piedras Negras sculptures. Last but by no means least, Dr. James Fitzsimmons expertly handled the difficult task of scanning and fitting photographs from these many sources, for which we are more than grateful.

The following abbreviations will be used when citing the sources of photographs and the present locations of Piedras Negras sculptures: the Carnegie Institution of Washington (CIW), Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions (CMHI), Museo Nacional de Antropología y Etnología, Guatemala City (MNAE), Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University (PMAE), and the University Museum of Pennsylvania (UM).

This volume is warmly dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Frederic C. Bartlett, whose most generous support for the Corpus Program extended over many years.

As this book goes to press, the following volumes of the *Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions* are available from the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.

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# Piedras Negras

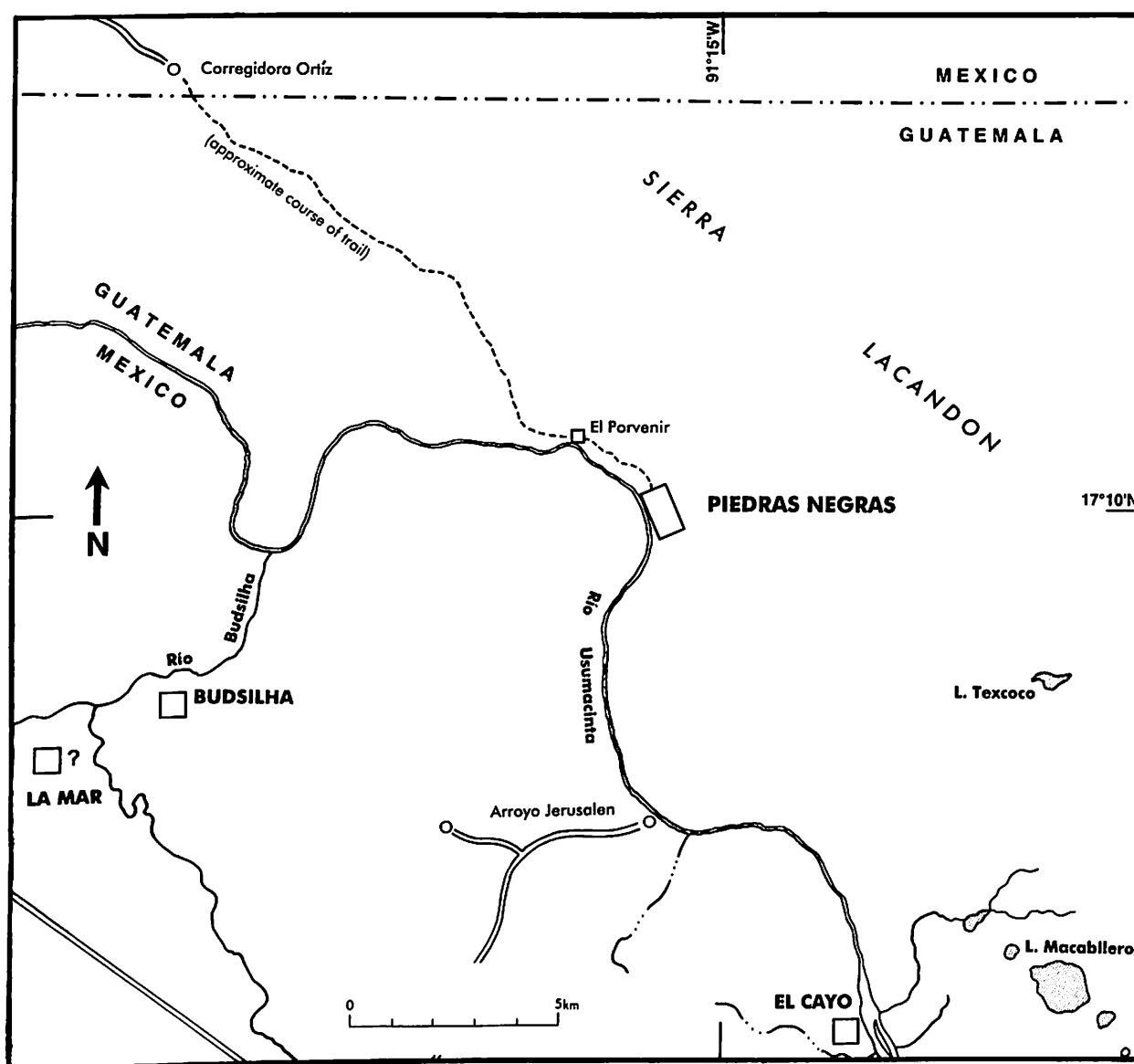
## LOCATION AND ACCESS

9:5

Piedras Negras lies on the Río Usumacinta in the remote northwest area of the Department of Petén, Guatemala. The river here winds its way in a general northwest direction toward the plains of Tabasco, cutting a narrow valley through the hilly and broken karstic landscape. The ruins are nestled among several rocky hills overlooking the Usumacinta, where blackened limestone outcroppings along the riverbank lend the site its name. Approximately forty kilometers upstream, to the southeast and on the opposite bank, are the extensive ruins of Yaxchilan.

Travel to Piedras Negras has always been difficult, given its isolated location and the nearby stretches of the river that are often made impassable by rapids. The principal and most reliable route of access to the ruins is a long-used trail running from the Mexican border to the north. The trail was originally opened in the late 1800s by laborers from Tenosique, Mexico, to provide access to various lumber camps, or *monterías*, located along the river. It originally extended as far as the encampment opposite El Cayo (Desempeño), some ten kilometers south of Piedras Negras. The trail to Piedras Negras has remained a customary means of access for archaeologists, looters, and adventurous tourists up to the present day.

If opting for this route, one may drive from Tenosique on good gravel and dirt roads southward to the border community of Corregidora Ortiz, where a Mexican military checkpoint monitors the comings and goings of visitors into the site (as of 1999 Guatemala had no official presence on this border). Here the drivable road ends, and one must then leave vehicles and continue on foot, crossing the border into Guatemala. During the dry season (generally March through the end of May), the hike from this point into Piedras Negras takes about five or six hours. The forested trail follows a northwest-southeast direction along a generally flat valley that roughly parallels the Río Usumacinta. Approximately eleven kilometers from the border, the trail comes close to the river at El Porvenir, once the site of a *montería* encampment, and there passes several small mounds. The route continues for a few kilometers over somewhat more difficult terrain and enters Piedras Negras at the West Group Plaza, in front of Structure K-5.





Here it is still possible to see the rusting remains of a 1930s vintage tractor that was driven to the ruins along the same trail (amazing as it now seems) by the University of Pennsylvania project.

Access to Piedras Negras by river is also possible, but again not easy. Assuming that the rapids above are passable, large wooden *lanchas* with outboard motors and experienced pilots can make the trip from various locales upstream, such as Bethel in Guatemala or Frontera Corozal, in Mexico. Private tour groups and rafting outfitters have at times made scheduled trips along the Usumacinta, usually stopping to camp at Piedras Negras.

Archaeological remains in the vicinity of Piedras Negras include El Porvenir, just mentioned, and the site of El Cayo to the south. The latter evidently had close political connections to Piedras Negras in ancient times. The poorly known centers of Budsilha and La Mar, first documented by Teobert Maler over a century ago (Maler 1903, pp. 89–96), are located in Mexico to the west, near the Río Budsilha, which empties into the Usumacinta over impressive waterfalls about ten kilometers downstream from Piedras Negras. The surrounding Guatemalan territory remains virtually unknown to archaeologists but reportedly includes several significant ruins.

#### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE SITE

Considering Teobert Maler's mention of the "road" linking Tenosique and El Cayo and passing by Piedras Negras (Maler 1901, pp. 40–42), the ruins were surely known to many of the lumber workers who traveled along the river in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Morley (1938, p. 1) credits the discovery of the ruins to one Emiliano Palma of Tenosique, who operated *monterías* at various points on the Usumacinta in the 1880s and 90s. Sr. Palma had earlier recalled to Morley that he had established a camp at Piedras Negras in 1894 (*ibid.*), at which time the ruins were discovered. However, Sr. Palma's recollections were certainly mistaken, for by 1894 the site had already been known and visited for several years, and a lumber camp had been in operation at Piedras Negras as early as 1889, if not before.

A very early mention of Piedras Negras might appear in Juan Galindo's 1833 report on the Usumacinta and Pasión rivers. Galindo related second-hand information about the river system and noted the existence of "extraordinary and extensive ruins" on the left bank of the river, very likely a reference to Yaxchilan (*CMHI*, p. 3:8). He then went on to mention that "somewhat lower down the stream there is a remarkable monumental stone, with characters" (Galindo 1833, p. 60). This hopelessly vague description could refer to any number of archaeological sites below Yaxchilan, but it is tempting to connect it with the conspicuous "*Roca de los Sacrificios*" (Rock Sculpture 1) documented by Maler at Piedras Negras (1901, p. 42), carved onto a slab of jutting limestone at the river's edge and visible to any river traveler attracted to the adjacent beach. It is difficult to think of any other "remarkable monumental stone, with characters" downstream from Yaxchilan.

Visitors to the ruins before the 1880s certainly included Lacandon Maya, who until a few decades ago lived in small isolated groups on the Guatemalan side of the Río Usumacinta. Their ritual activity at the ruins seems indicated by Maler's note of finding near Stela 21 "numerous shards of incense vessels, dishes and bowls of every kind" (Maler 1901, p. 64). A complete Lacandon "god pot" is illustrated in Butler's (1935) initial report on Piedras Negras ceramics.

The first published mention of the ruins is by Louis Chambon (1892, pp. 119–122), a French tourist who stopped at Tenosique in 1889 on his way to Palenque. There Chambon was told of large ruins surrounding the small *montería* called Piedras Negras, operated by men from Tenosique, and he arrived there a few days later accompanied by a guide. His published account includes only a short description of the ruins, but included is an unmistakable description of Altar 4 and its sculptured supports and Rock Sculpture 1.

Evidently Teobert Maler was completely ignorant of Chambon's visit when he made his way to Piedras Negras in the summer of 1895, after having been told of the ruins by Don Transito Mejenes, a lumber agent at El Cayo. His initial visit was kept to a few hours due to lack of men and supplies, but he soon returned that summer for a fifteen-day stay, during which time he examined Stelae 1 through 8. Under the auspices of the Peabody Museum, Maler resumed work at Piedras Negras in 1899, staying long enough to expose numerous more monuments and conduct limited excavations. Over the course of these two extended visits in 1895 and 1899, he discovered and photographed most of the extant monumental sculpture, including Stelae 1 through 36, and "Lintels" (Panels) 1 and 2 from Structure O-13. His excellent photographs of the monuments were published with a description of the site (Maler 1901) and remain an invaluable record, given the later destruction of many sculptures.

Charles P. Bowditch, who funded Maler's expeditions for the Peabody Museum, quickly published a commentary on the dates recorded in the Piedras Negras inscriptions (Bowditch 1901). His speculations on the significance of the dates on the back of Stela 3 (*ibid.*, p. 13) are remarkable anticipations of the historical interpretations presented decades later by Proskouriakoff (1960).

Few if any visitors made their way to Piedras Negras in the decade or so after Maler's final season of work in 1899. In 1914, a young Sylvanus Morley of the Carnegie Institution of Washington arrived at the ruins to study the inscriptions. He returned with Oliver Ricketson in 1921 for a more systematic study and survey, at which time Stela 40 was found. The results of Morley's work on dating the monuments were published in volume 3 of his great multivolume series, *The Inscriptions of Peten* (Morley 1938).

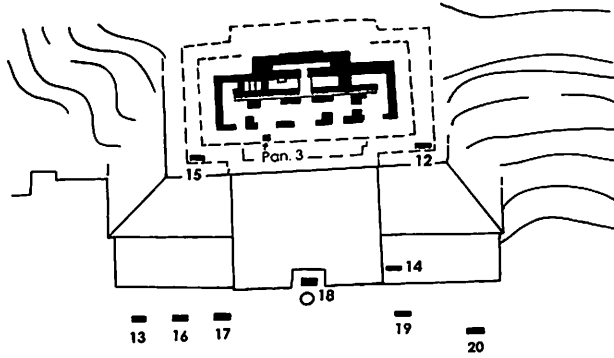
In 1930 J. Alden Mason, then curator of the American Section of the University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania, visited Piedras Negras to ascertain the feasibility of conducting excavations and removing several of the well-preserved monuments from the site. Once approved by the Guatemalan authorities, work began by the museum in 1931 on the widening of the well-traversed path from Corregidora Ortiz to permit transport of the large stelae (Danien 2001). The first three field seasons, wholly financed by the museum's patron Eldridge R. Johnston, were largely devoted to the search for monuments. Several of the sculptures removed from the ruins, including the beautiful Stelae 12 and 40, were exhibited in Philadelphia for many years before their return to Guatemala City.

Linton Satterthwaite oversaw most of the excavations that lasted through to 1937 and then for a final season in 1939. Numerous structures were excavated in these years, and several new stelae and panels (what Maler called "lintels") came to light. The University of Pennsylvania project produced an excellent map of the ruins, surveyed by Fred Parris, which remains the basis of the one published here in the *Corpus*, with only slight modifications. The results of the University Museum's project were published in a series of reports mostly focusing on architectural remains (Satterthwaite 1943; Coe 1959).

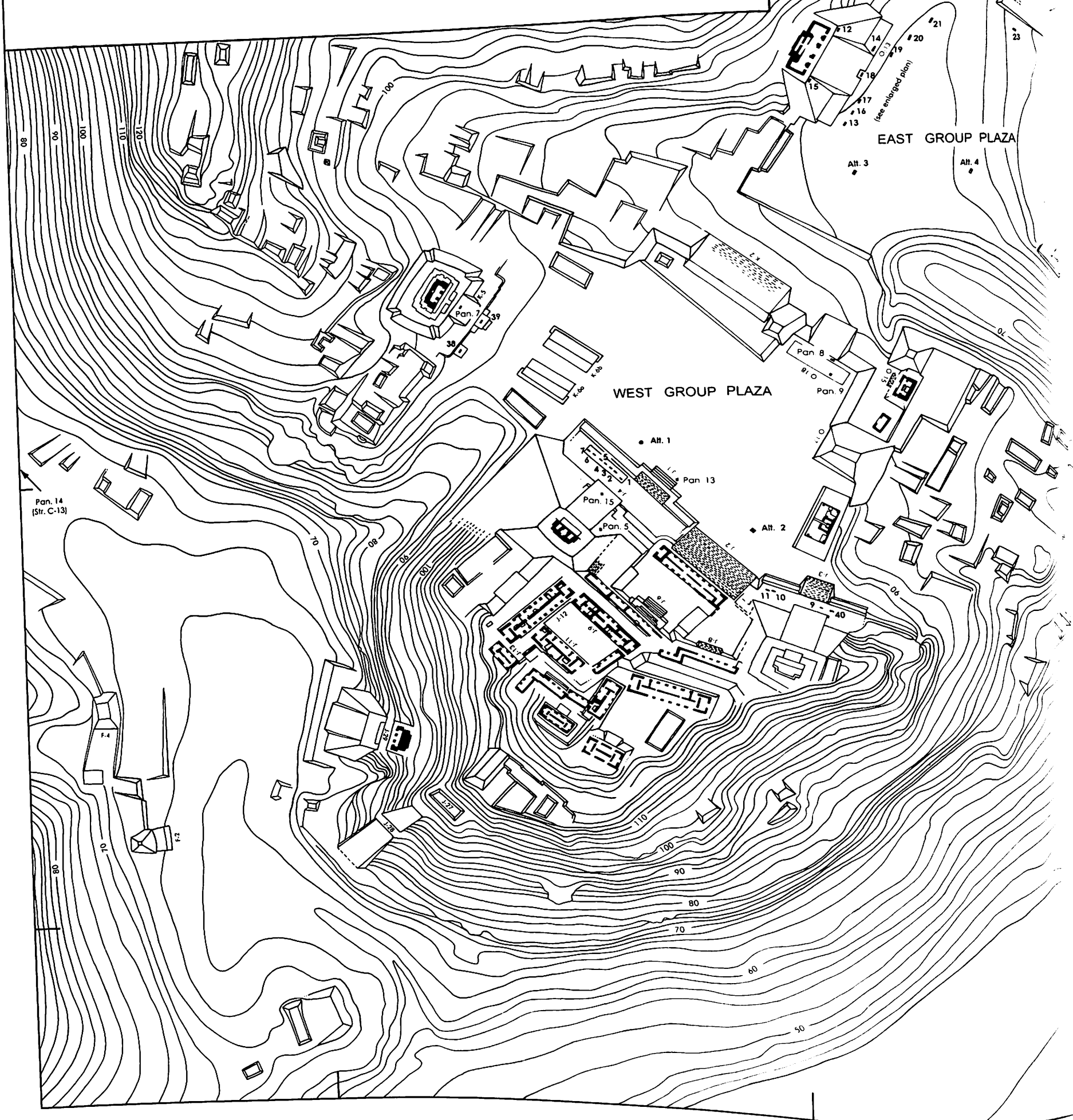
During the final 1939 season, a young Harvard undergraduate named William S. Godfrey, Jr., joined the Piedras Negras project in order to research the monuments in preparation for his senior honors thesis (Godfrey 1940). His unpublished study includes several valuable observations on the locations and formal variations of the stelae, as well as a few of his own photographs of monuments since damaged or lost.

Another member of the Penn crew was a young artist named Tatiana Proskouriakoff, beginning a long and productive career that would see her grow into one of the foremost authorities on Maya art and hieroglyphic writing. In 1960, over twenty years after her fieldwork at Piedras Negras, Proskouriakoff published her now famous article on the "pattern of dates"

# Structure O-13



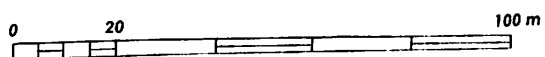
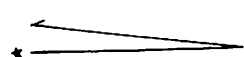
Original locations of Panels 1 and 2 uncertain  
 Panel 12 fragments re-used as construction blocks





## THE RUINS OF PIEDRAS NEGRAS

after survey by Parris and Proskouriakoff, 1939



on Piedras Negras stelae (Proskouriakoff 1960), wherein she convincingly demonstrated that dynastic history was recorded in Maya texts. The hieroglyphic texts of the site will forever be associated with her name.

It is high irony that within a few years of Proskouriakoff's contribution, looters from Tenosique attacked many of the monuments of Piedras Negras with saws. In the early 1960s stelae were damaged and sawn pieces were pilfered, evidently passing through Tenosique on their way to the private and public collections in Mexico, the United States, and Europe. The scarred remains of many stelae still rest at the ruins, but the whereabouts of many sculptures originally documented by Maler are unknown to this day.

In early 1975, Jeffrey Miller, a graduate student at Yale University, spent several days at Piedras Negras cleaning and photographing the sculpture remaining at the site in preparation for a doctoral thesis on the inscriptions. Miller's sudden death just weeks thereafter left the project unfinished, but his numerous photographs of the monuments, now archived at Yale University, remain an important and valuable record.

Piedras Negras received little more attention from researchers until 1997, when excavations and surveys began anew under the auspices of the Proyecto Arqueológico Piedras Negras, directed by Stephen D. Houston and Héctor L. Escobedo (Houston, Escobedo, Child, et al. 2000; Houston, Escobedo, Forsyth, et al. 1998; Houston, Escobedo, Hardin, et al. 1999; Houston, Escobedo, Terry, et al. 2000). These excavations produced new inscriptions that will be published in later fascicles of the *Corpus*.

The authors of this volume each made separate visits to ruins. Ian Graham made visits in 1974 and 1975, during which he photographed and made field sketches of the sculpture. David Stuart later made two visits to the ruins, first as a panting tourist on a brief look in 1983 and again for a lengthier stay in 1998, enjoying the hospitality of the archaeological project then in its second season.

#### NOTES ON THE RUINS

The best and most detailed description of the ruins remains that by Satterthwaite, included by Morley in *The Inscriptions of Peten* (Morley 1938, pp. 5–25) and presented later by Satterthwaite himself (1943). Here we add a few words about the ruins as they pertain to the settings and locations of the sculpture and inscriptions.

Piedras Negras is an extensive site dominated by two principal architectural complexes known as the South Group and West Group but with smaller structures densely scattered around them. An East Group was designated by the University Museum project, but this really is no more than an extensive and very open plaza situated between the South and West Groups and overlooked at its northern side by the largest single building found in the ruins, Structure O-13. These main architectural groups are bounded to the northwest and southeast by small natural valleys that, though usually dry, sometimes carry water during periods of great rain or even flood when the river rises to its highest levels in the wet season. The small beach formed where the southern *barranca* meets the river is the natural landing for river traffic floating downstream, and it was certainly a significant point of access in ancient times as well. Here the Rock Sculpture 1 (RSc.1) was carved on a natural outcropping of limestone overlooking the beach. Viewing the map, one might imagine an ancient access route running up this valley and heading left through a fairly well-defined "avenue" located behind and to the east of the South Group, and ending at the East Group Plaza next to Structure O-12. Similarly, the wider northern valley, also accessible by the river, appears to have been a route used to approach the main site in ancient times. A saddle just to the northeast of Structure J-4 and the acropolis provided a natural means of access, arriving at the West Group Plaza in front of Structure K-5.

Judging by the dated stelae, the South Group is the earlier of the two architectural complexes, constructed above the river and close to the beach at river's edge. The numerous monuments aligned in front of the buildings date to a time both before and during the reigns of the first two rulers identified by Proskouriakoff (1960). The square-shaped courtyard at the center of the South Group is open on its northern corner, allowing access into the broad East Group Plaza and thence up to the West Group Plaza, below the acropolis. The West Group includes the imposing Structures J-3 and J-4, which rise up above monuments belonging to the reigns of Rulers 3 and 4, respectively. The intermediate East Group, with O-12 and O-13, is the setting for most of the later stelae dating during the reigns of Rulers 5, 6, and 7. Aside from the pyramids and acropolis, Piedras Negras has two ball courts, one in the West Group Plaza before Structure K-5 and another, probably Early Classic in date, just to the north of the South Group. Both ball courts were decorated with sculptures that will be presented in the *Corpus*. Large sweatbaths are unusually numerous at Piedras Negras, but evidently none were associated with any hieroglyphic inscription that survives.

The stelae are distributed in fairly well-defined groups that correspond to the reigns of individual rulers, as Proskouriakoff demonstrated in her now-famous paper (Proskouriakoff 1960). Thus the eight stelae placed before Structure J-4 all date to the reign of the third known ruler, and those before Structure J-2 to the time of his successor, Ruler 4. Rather than being erected directly in plazas, stelae at Piedras Negras were generally placed on terraces or platforms in front of pyramids. A few important monuments also appear to have been erected near the summits of pyramids such as Structures R-5 and O-13.

The sculptured panels of Piedras Negras are distinctive in their size and presentation. Maler had mistakenly called these square or rectangular stones "lintels," no doubt influenced in this by the great number of carved door lintels he found at nearby Yaxchilan. However, all monuments of this type were generally found near the summits of pyramids or on stairways, in settings that strongly suggest they were used as facings on outset platforms. Proskouriakoff (1946) showed such a likely placement for Panel 7 on the upper staircase of Structure K-5.

A few Piedras Negras stelae seem to have been inlaid with small adornments, possibly of shell, jade, or obsidian. As Godfrey observed (1940, p. 32), drilled holes in the serpent headdress and collar on Stela 26 correspond to the places where protruding teeth might be expected, and carved slots flanking the ruler's head probably held some type of ear ornaments attached to the stone. The portrait on Stela 36 exhibits a large hole where an ear ornament would be expected. Many monuments also show deep holes in the center of circular earflares, which originally must have served as sockets for protruding tubes, possibly of jade. The inlay of jewelry on stone monuments is rare in Maya art but is also known on monuments at Tonina (CMHI, p. 6:126).

#### NOMENCLATURE

Monument designations were formalized by the University Museum project, but a few minor modifications of the old scheme are now necessary. As noted above, "Panel" will now be used to designate a number of sculptures mistakenly called "lintels" by Maler and later writers. The old category "Miscellaneous Stone Sculptures," including panel and throne fragments as well as practice carvings (Satterthwaite 1965), now will be called "Miscellaneous."

It is necessary to introduce into the *Corpus* a new category of monument called "Rock Sculpture" (abbreviated as RSc.) in order to include inscriptions carved on natural stone outcroppings or cliff faces. Two such sculptures are known from Piedras Negras, and others will be published in future *Corpus* volumes devoted to Calakmul, the cave at Loltun, and San Diego.



## NOTES ON THE MAP

Our map is a copy of the third and final version of the impressive survey made by Fred Parris, Tatiana Proskouriakoff, and others in the 1930s and published by Satterthwaite in 1943. The area covered has been reduced somewhat, omitting the northernmost squares labeled A through D and Z. Architectural details such as pyramid terraces have been omitted for the sake of visual clarity, and the original University of Pennsylvania map should be consulted for this information. The lettered squares of the Penn grid system are also not drawn, although small perpendicular lines at the edges of the map indicate the placement of the dividing lines. The map does retain errors by Parris recently revealed by the more exact surveys by the Proyecto Arqueológico Piedras Negras. Their corrected map will be prepared and published at some future date, but the Parris version used here is generally accurate in its presentation of monument locations and their architectural settings. Only one significant monument, Rock Sculpture 2 (Morley's "Inscribed Cliff"), lies outside the coverage area of the map.

## REGISTER OF INSCRIPTIONS

Stelae 1–18, 22–23, 25–27, 29–40, 43, 46  
 Altars 1–4  
 Thrones 1–4  
 Panels (formerly "Lintels") 1–10, 12–16  
 Ball-court Sculptures 1–4  
 Rock Sculptures 1, 2  
 Miscellaneous

## NOTES

1. Stelae 19–21, 24, 28, 41–42, and 44 bear no remains of sculpture, if ever carved.
2. Stela 45 will be designated Ball-court Sculpture 3.
3. Lintel 11 appears in fact to be the lower part of Stela 29 and will be published as such.
4. Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone 10 will be designated Ball-court Sculpture 4.
5. Maler (1901, p. 64) published an inscribed rectangular "support for an altar," which he encountered in Ciudad del Carmen and described as having been removed by loggers from Piedras Negras at some time before his visit. Nothing in the inscription confirms a Piedras Negras affiliation, although it may be a stela fragment. It will be presented under the Miscellaneous category.

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# Piedras Negras, Stela 1

PNG:St.1

9:15

**LOCATION** Found by Maler as the westernmost in the row of eight monuments on the terrace in front of Structure J-4. The stela was evidently erected near the central axis of the pyramid's main stairway. Satterthwaite (1943, p. 60) noted that it may have been set off of the low stela platform bearing Stelae 2 through 7.

**CONDITION** When discovered by Maler, the stela was broken into two large fragments, with one small detached piece from the left side. The design on the front was all but obliterated. Preservation on the back was far better, with only slight weathering in some areas near the top and loss of sculpture in areas of fracture. Areas of paint remained where the sculpture is best preserved. The inscribed sides had suffered moderate to heavy erosion. In the 1960s, looters clumsily attempted to remove glyphs from the back, leaving only large saw marks and gaps where columns J and K of the inscription had once been.

**MATERIAL** Fine-grained yellow limestone.

**SHAPE** Parallel sides with a flat top.

DIMENSIONS	Ht	4.22 m
	HLC	3.07 m
	EPB	19.0 cm
	MW	1.27 m
	WBC	1.12 m
	MTh	0.46 m
	Rel	11.0 cm

**CARVED AREAS** Front, back, and narrow sides.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Godfrey (front), Maler (1895 views of back, PMAE nos. H1569 and H7570), and Graham (1974 views of back, CMHI neg nos. 1959/1, 1942/1; left side, CMHI neg. nos. 1943/1, 1934/4; right side, CMHI neg. no. 1932/4, 1929/1).

**DRAWINGS** Stuart, based on extant photographs and corrected field drawings.

**NOTES** Maler mentioned the remains of intense blue and red paint on the sculpture on the back, traces of which were seen by Graham near the bottom of the image during his 1974 visit. The sandal on the woman's right foot was then colored blue, her foot red.

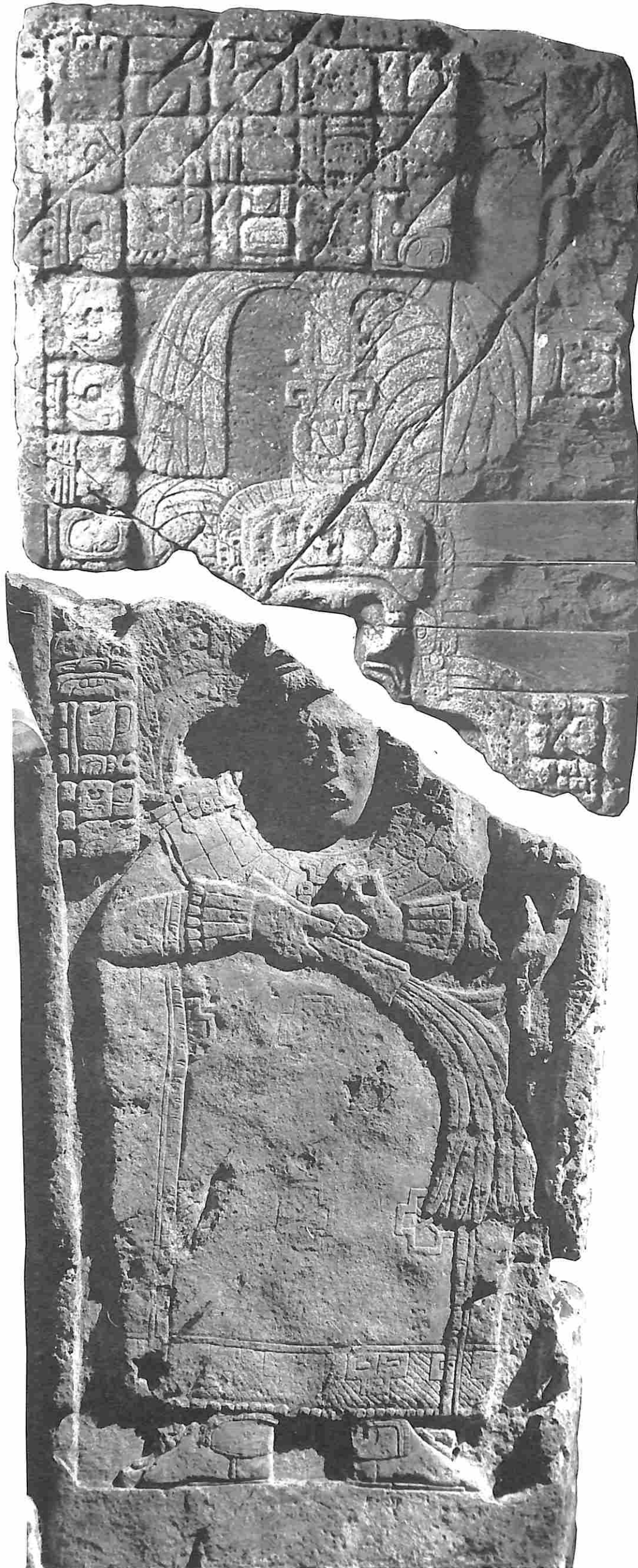


Front



Back, 1895 photographs



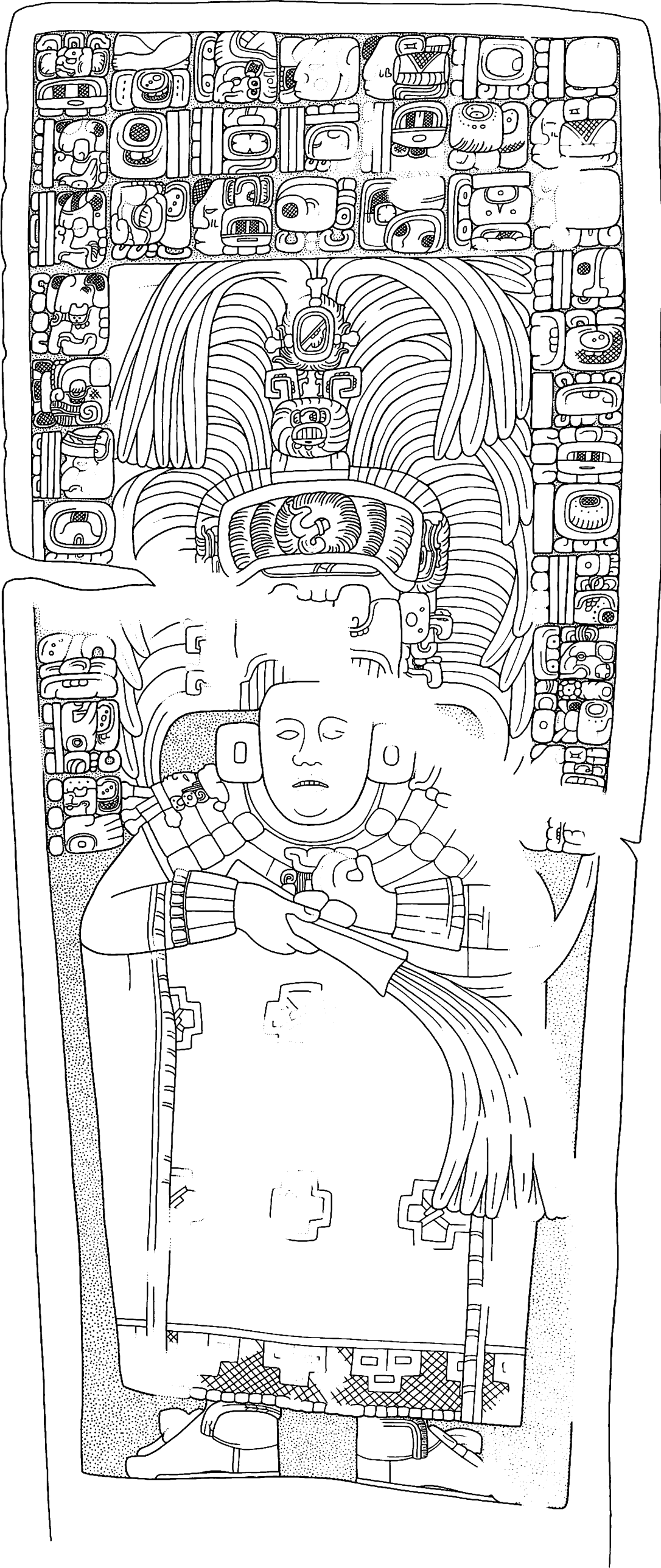


*Back, 1974 photographs*

E F G H I J K

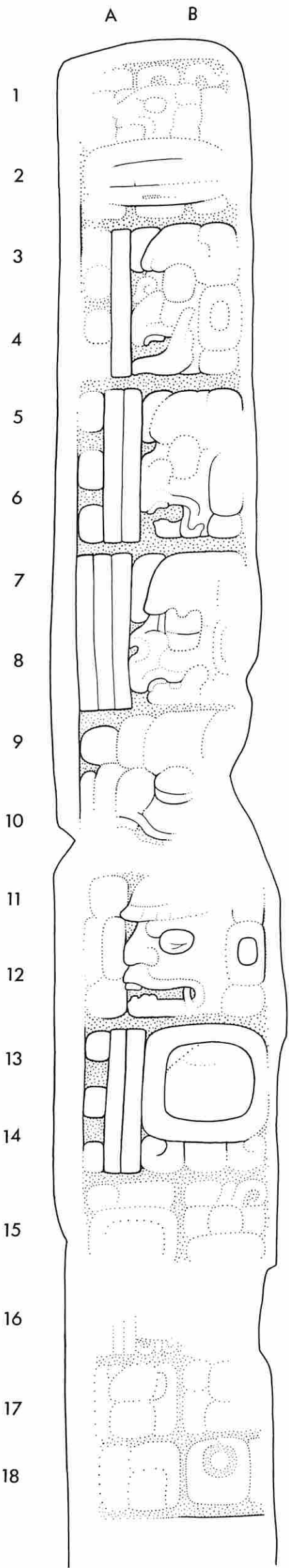
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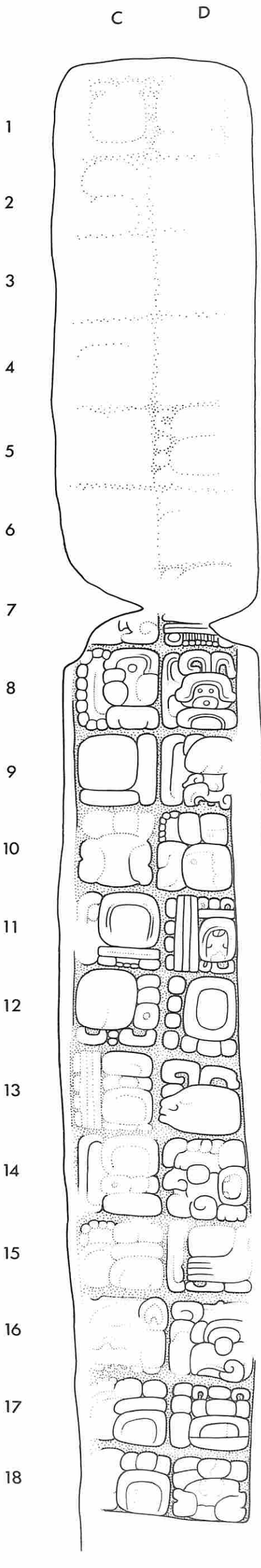


Left side





Right side





# Piedras Negras, Stela 2

PNG:St.2

9:21

**LOCATION** Discovered face down by Maler in the row of stelae on the terrace in front of Structure J-4, between Stelae 1 and 3. The sawn front is now on display in the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**CONDITION** Broken into three large fragments. The front was in good condition, with only moderate weathering and breakage in some areas of the sculpture. The sides and top suffered considerably more, with the loss of most carved details. Maler reported that the back was carved, but largely destroyed. In the mid-1960s looters

sawed away the front face, which is now displayed in some fifteen pieces.

**MATERIAL** Very fine-grained limestone with a few hollow blemishes.

**SHAPE** The sides of the stela are highly convex, lending a column-like appearance to the monument's form. The top is flat.

**DIMENSIONS**

Ht	2.77 m
MW	76.0 cm
MTh	>40.5 cm
Rel	2.7 cm

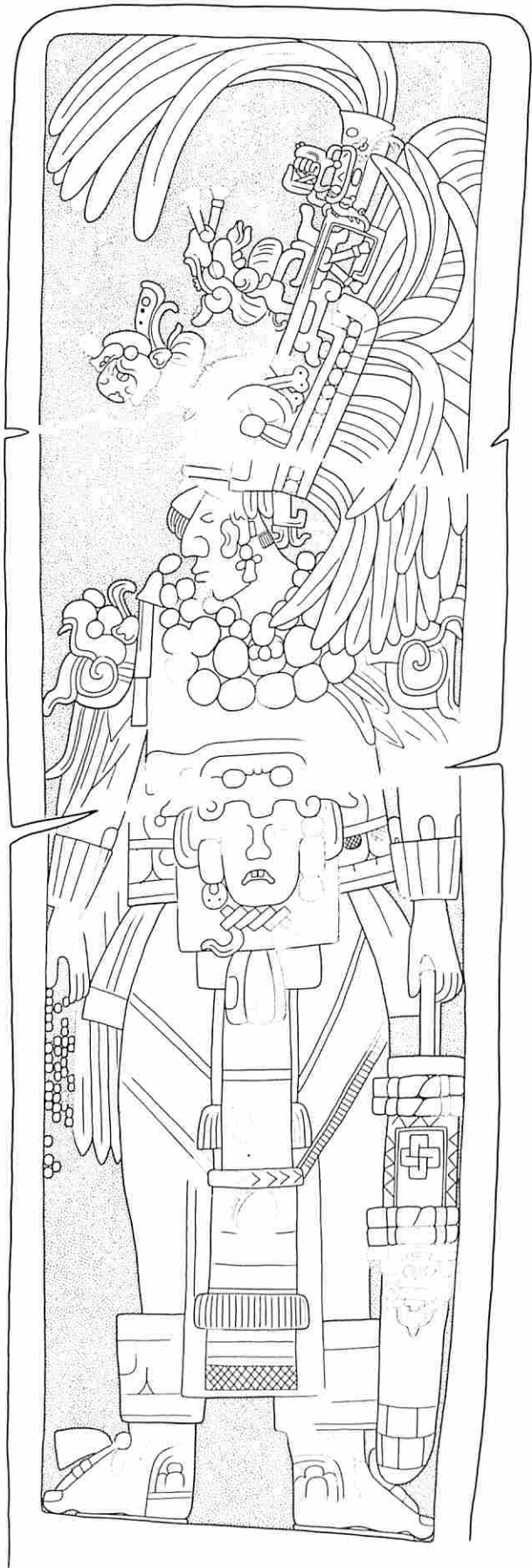
**CARVED AREAS** Front, back, sides, and top.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Godfrey (front), UM (left, neg. no. 32-m-44), and CIW (right, neg. no. H-21-5-6; top, neg. no. H-21-5-2).

**DRAWINGS** Graham (front) and Stuart (sides and top).

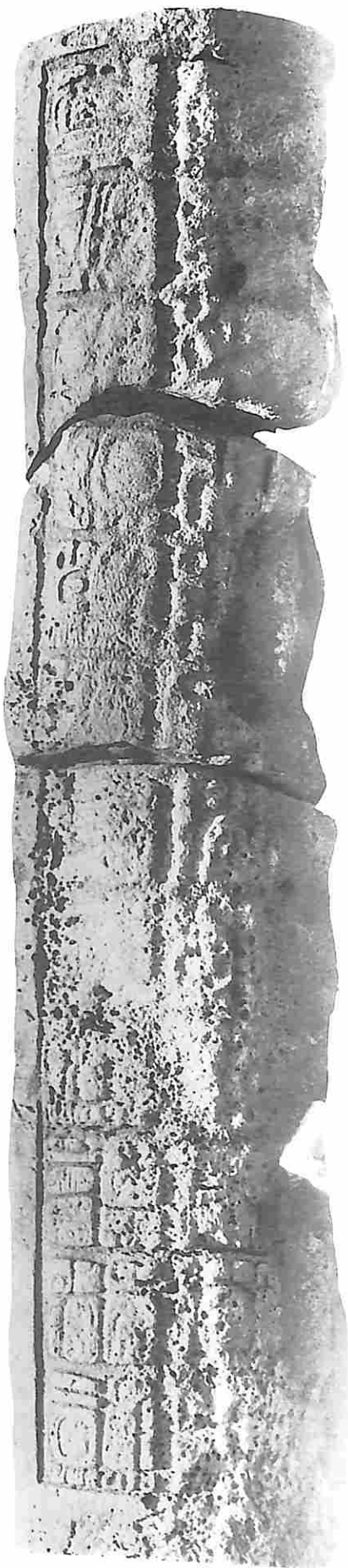
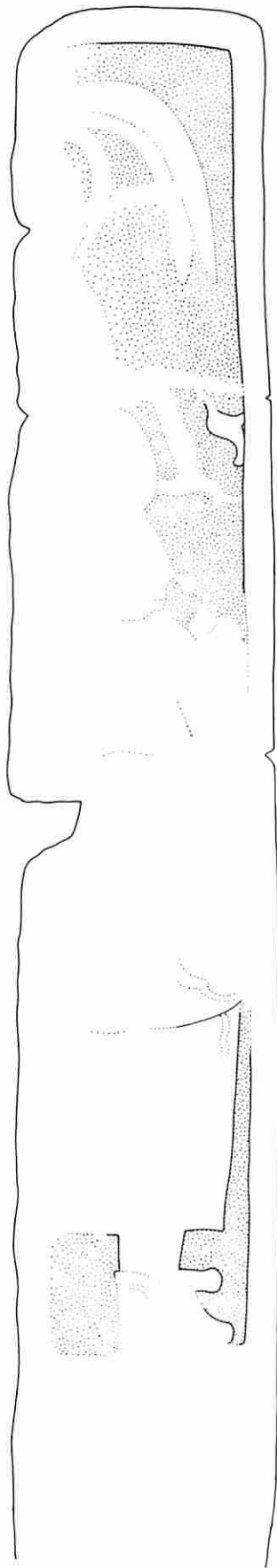


Front

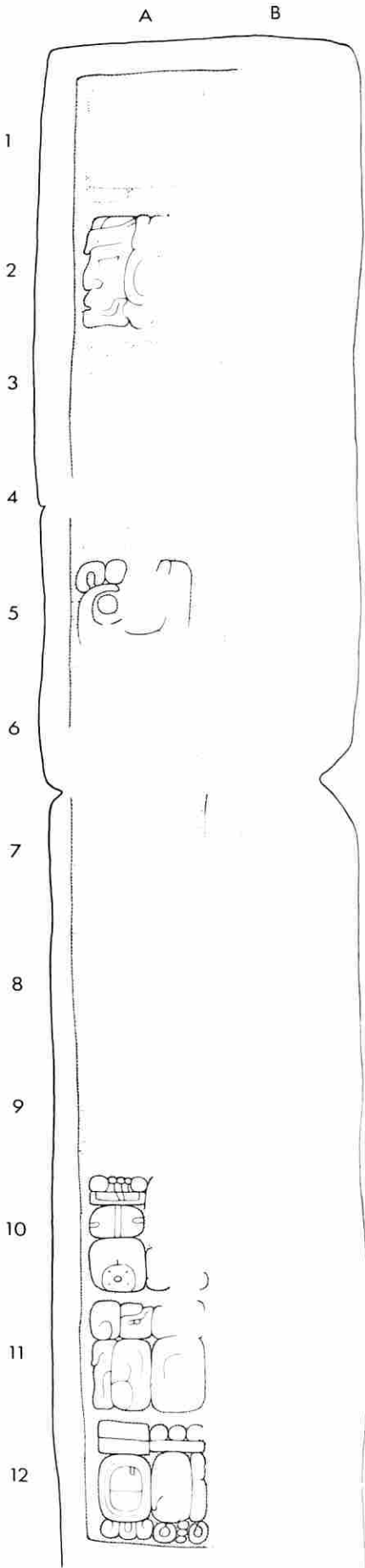




Left side



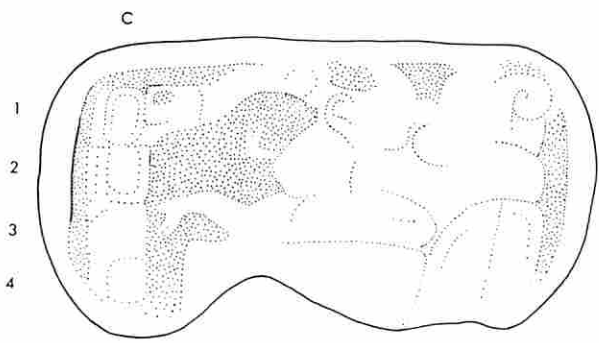
Right side







Top



# Piedras Negras, Stela 3

**LOCATION** Originally set among the row of eight monuments on the terrace in front of Structure J-4, between Stelae 2 and 4.

**CONDITION** Maler found the stela fallen face up and broken into three fragments. The sculpture on the front was in very poor condition. The back fared much better, with much of the carving in a nearly pristine state when found, retaining traces of red, blue, and green paint (Maler 1901, p. 48). The sides had suffered moderate to heavy erosion. In the 1960s, looters carelessly sawed the stela into small fragments. The inscription on the rear was badly damaged, and these fragments are now stored in the basement of the Museo Nacional de Arqueología y Etnología in Guatemala City. A single small section of the back, bearing the image of a lidded vase, somehow made its way to a private collection in Mérida, Mexico.

**MATERIAL** Fine-grained yellowish limestone.

**SHAPE** Parallel sides with a flat top.

<b>DIMENSIONS</b>	Ht	4.14 m
	MW	1.31 m
	MTh	43.0 cm
	Rel	>8.0 cm

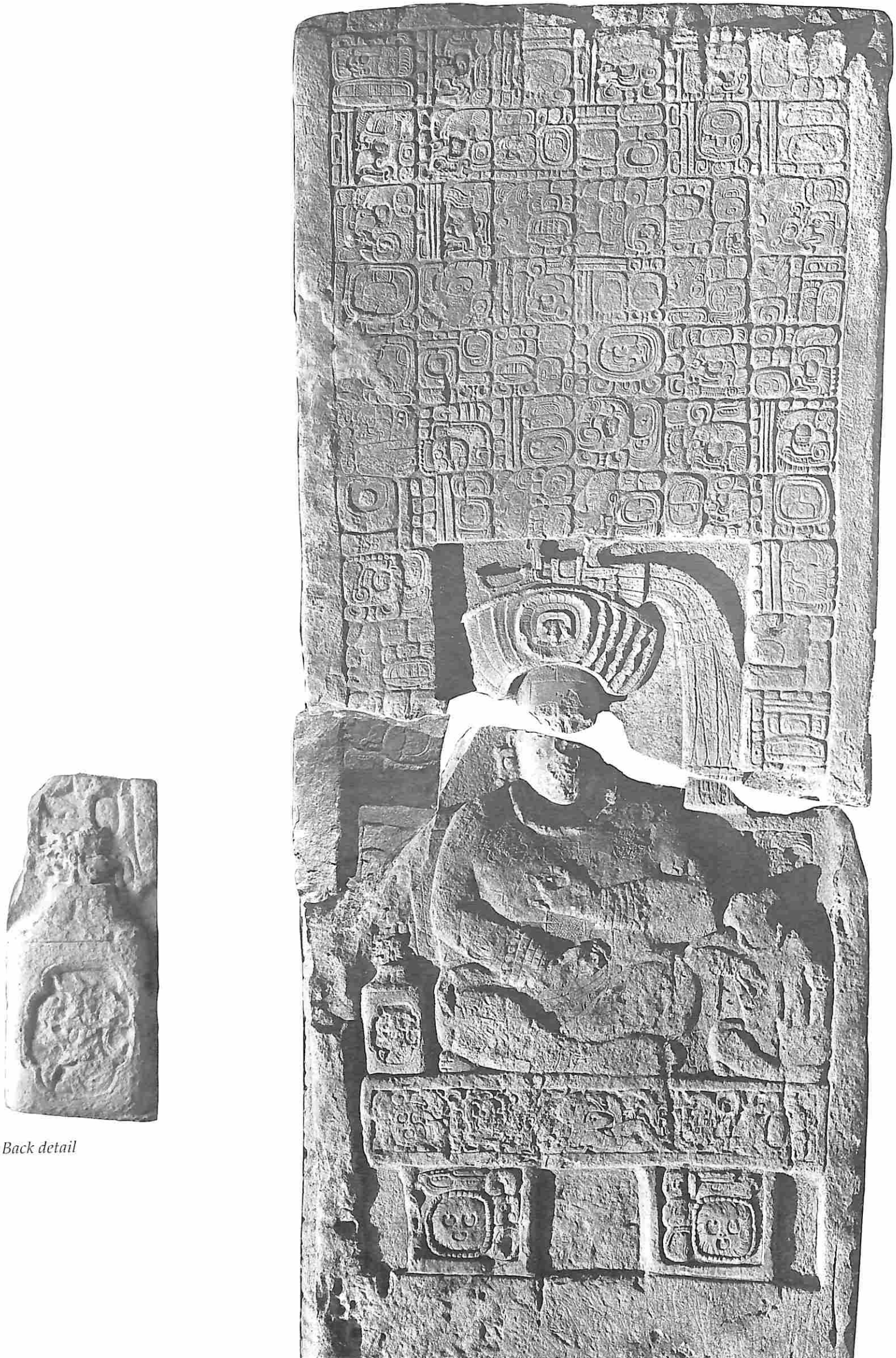
**CARVED AREAS** Front, sides, and back.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Godfrey (front), Maler (back, PMAE nos. H7567, H7568), Graham (detail of back, CMHI neg. no. 7145/3), and CIW (left side, neg. nos. H-0-7-48, H-21-5-8, H-21-5-9; right side, neg. nos. H-21-5-13, H-21-5-11).

**DRAWINGS** Stuart, based on photographs and on inspection of the extant fragments in Guatemala City.



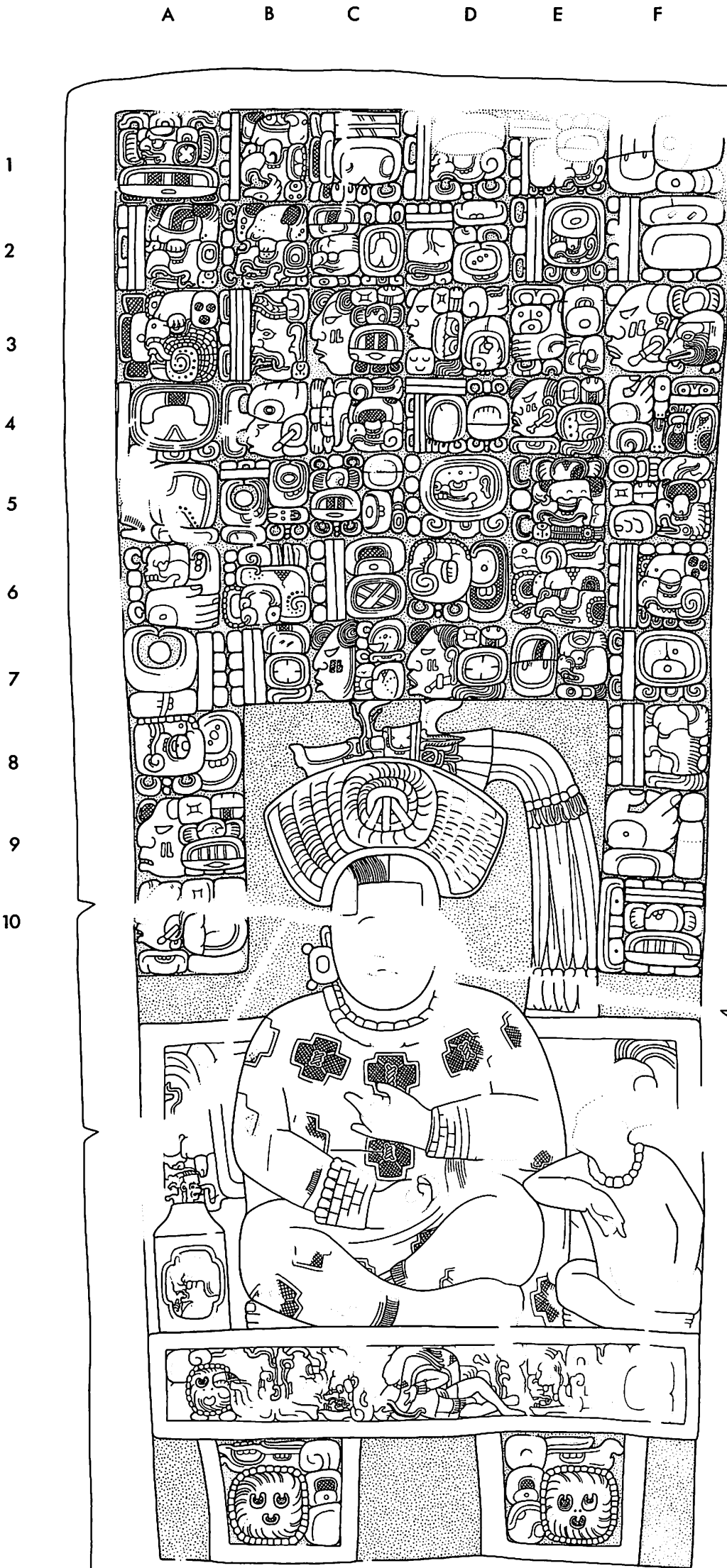
Front

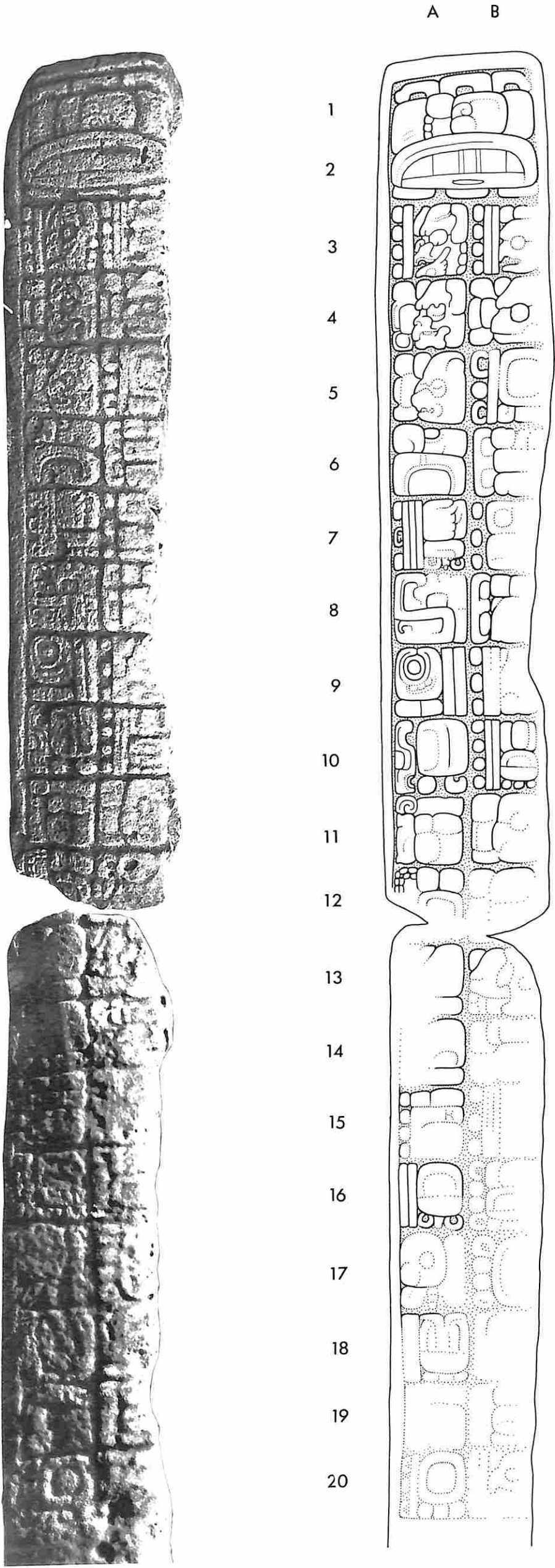


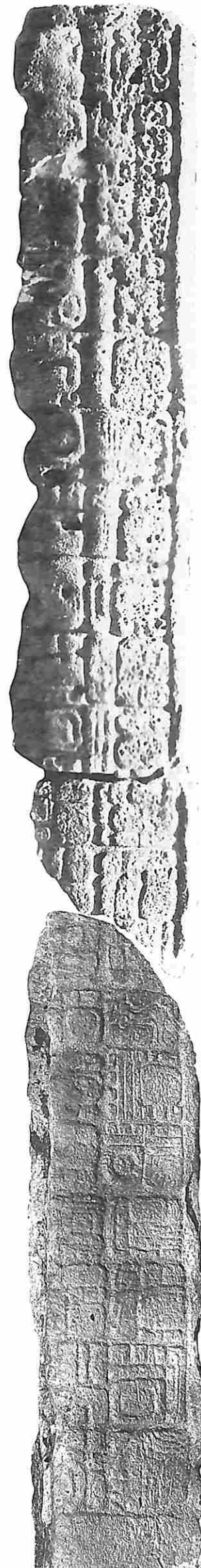
Back detail

Back

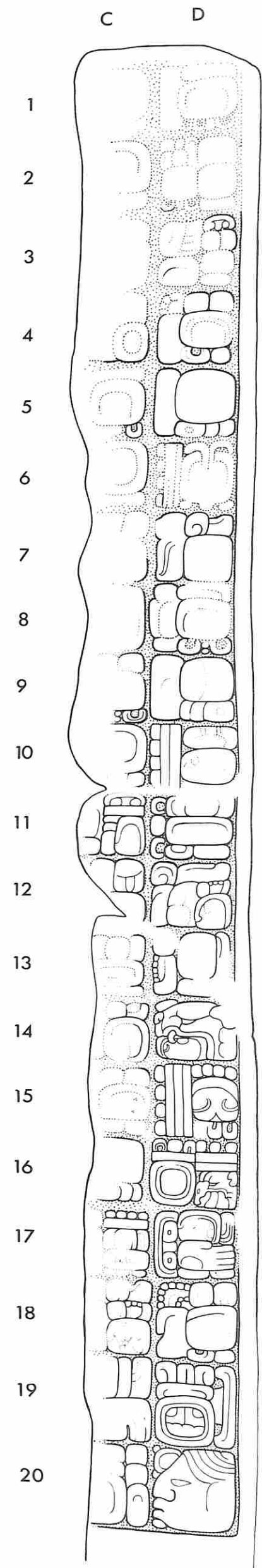








*Right side*





# Piedras Negras, Stela 4

**LOCATION** Fourth in a row of stelae placed on the terrace before Structure J-4, between Stelae 3 and 5. A few sawn remains of the stela now rest in the plaza below, near Altar 1, where the looters apparently trimmed the sculpture for easy transport. At least one of the looted captive figures is reportedly in a private collection.

**CONDITION** Found in three fragments by Maler, the portrait on the front was well preserved, with traces of red paint still visible on the background and on the figure. The inscribed sides have suffered uneven erosion.

**MATERIAL** Fine-grained limestone.

**SHAPE** Parallel sides with a flat top.

**DIMENSIONS**

Ht	4.16 m
MW	1.39 m
MTh	32.0 cm

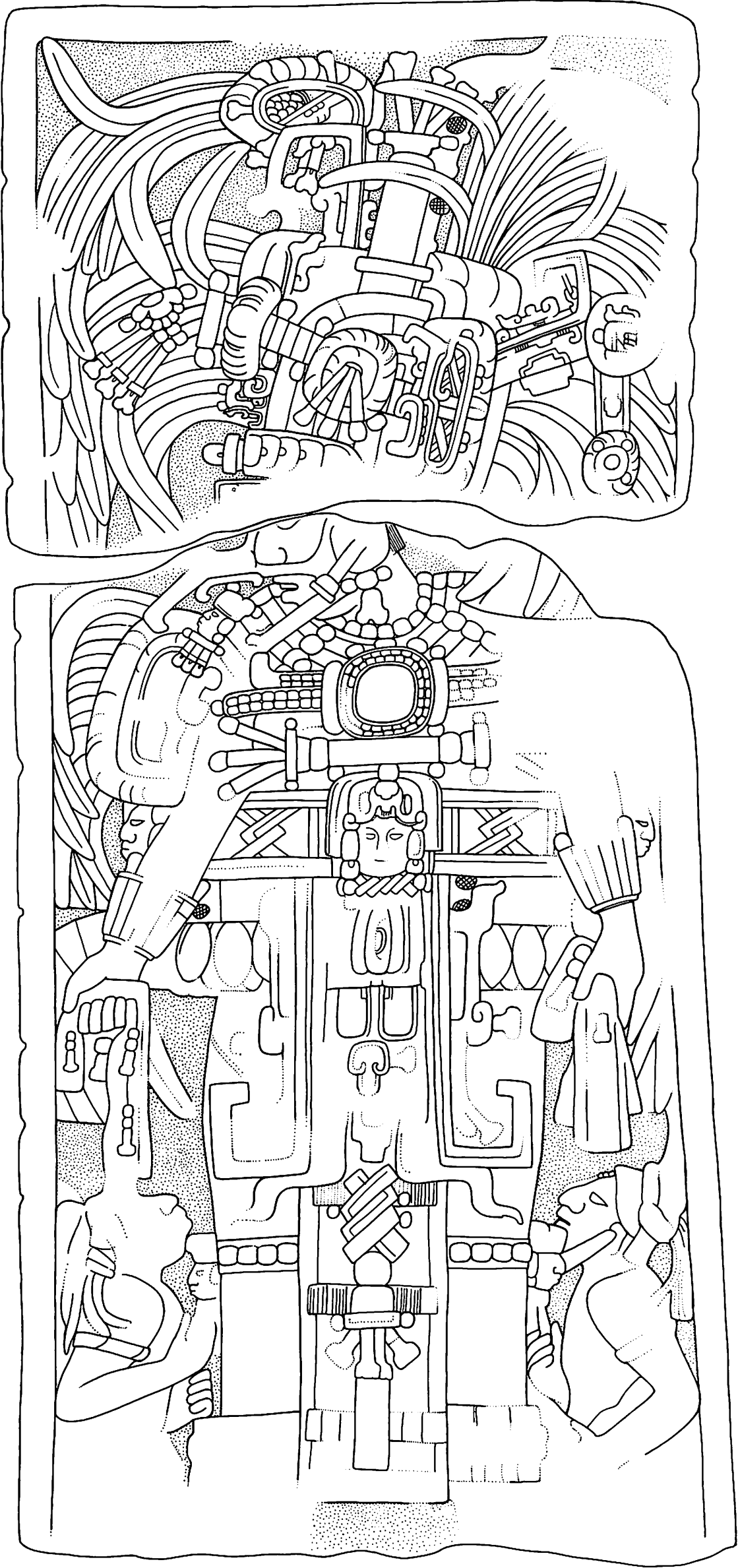
**CARVED AREAS** Front and sides.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Maler (front, upper two fragments, PMAE nos. H7572, H7573) and CIW (bottom of front, neg. no. H-21-5-12; left side, neg. no. H-21-5-14a; right side, neg. nos. H-21-5-1, H-21-5-16).

**DRAWINGS** Stuart, based on photographs and field drawings of the extant fragments by Graham.



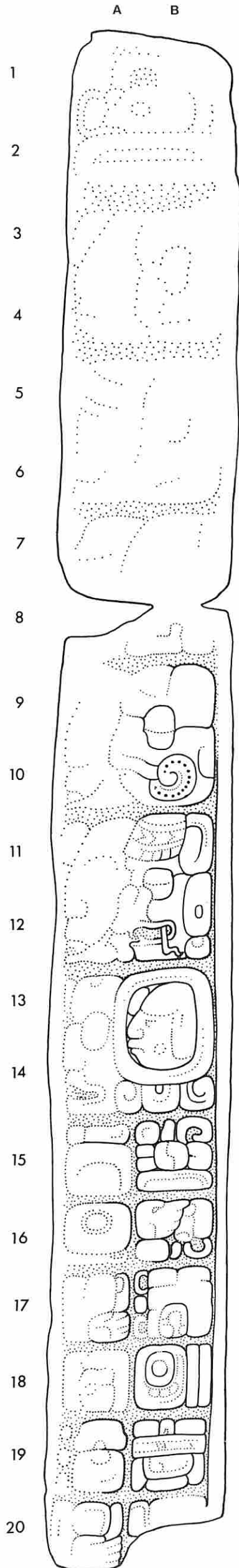
Front



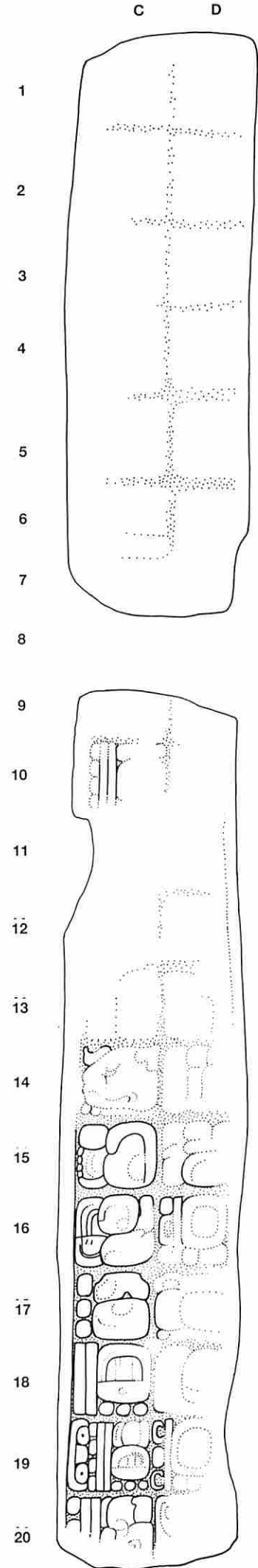




Left side



Right side



# Piedras Negras, Stela 5

**LOCATION** Originally placed in front of Structure J-4, between Stelae 4 and 6. The upper three-quarters of the front are displayed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. The bottom fragment remains at the site.

**CONDITION** Largely intact when found face down by Maler. The front sculpture was in nearly pristine condition, with only a few losses of detail. The main fragment corresponds to roughly three-quarters of the slab. Looters thinned this during the 1960s, and their literal defacement of the stela destroyed the side inscriptions in the process.

**MATERIAL** Pale yellow limestone.

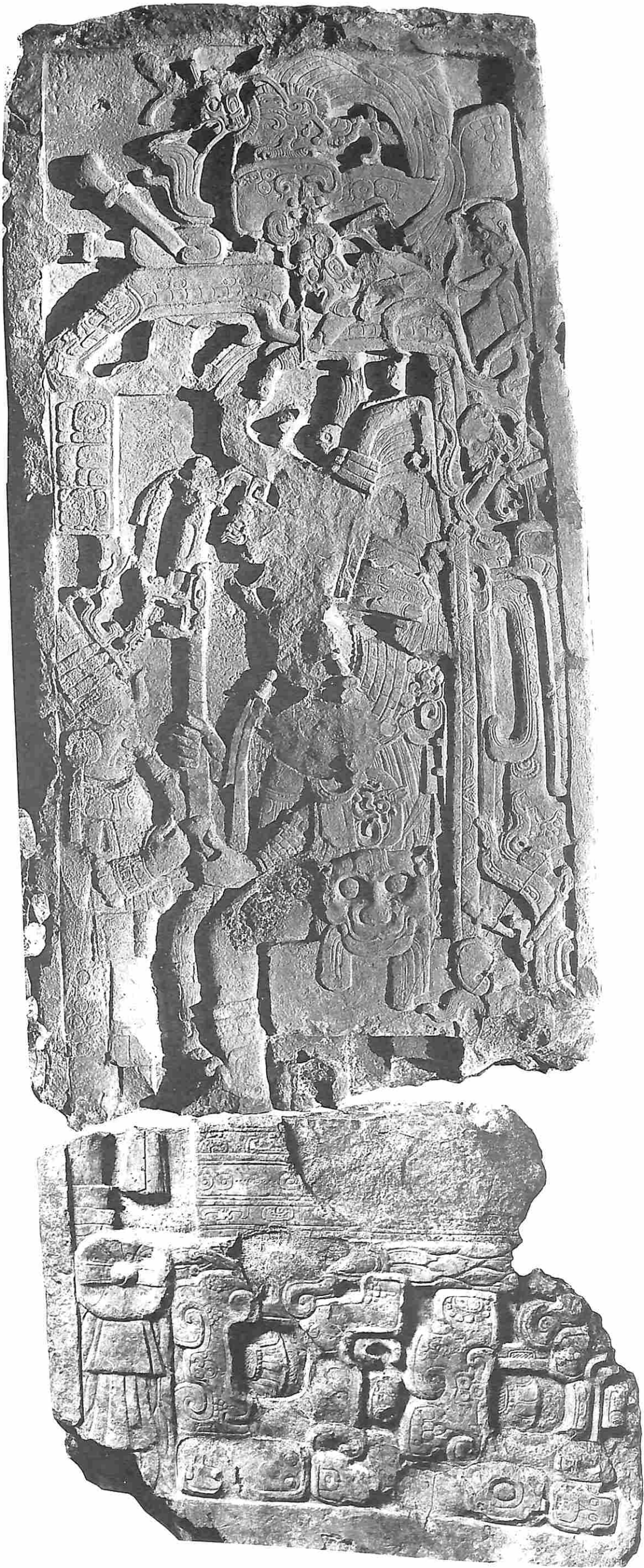
**SHAPE** Parallel sides with a flat top.

DIMENSIONS	Ht	4.22 m
	MW	1.22 m
	WBC	>1.13 m
	MTh	36.0 cm
	Rel	6.0 cm

**CARVED AREAS** Front and sides.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Maler (front, upper fragment, PMAE neg. no. N30256), Graham (front, lower fragment, CMHI neg. no. 1697/2; left side, lower fragment, CMHI neg. no. 1904/3; right side, lower fragment, CMHI neg. no. 1904/2; back, lower fragment, CMHI neg. no. 1921/2), Godfrey (back), and CIW (left side, upper fragment, neg. no. H-21-5-18; right side, upper fragment, neg. no. H-21-5-19).

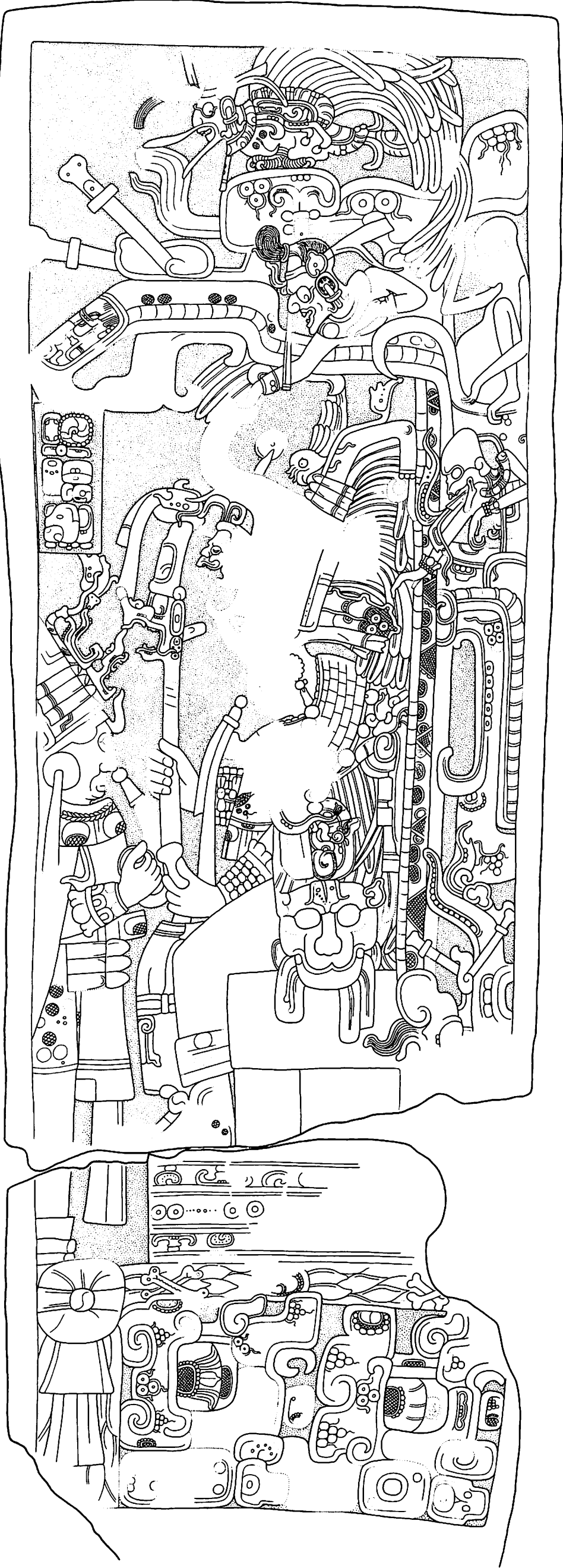
**DRAWINGS** Front by Graham based on field drawings and inspection of the original. Left side by Stuart, solely on the basis of the University Museum photographs. The right side was not drawn because of the lack of detail in the photograph.

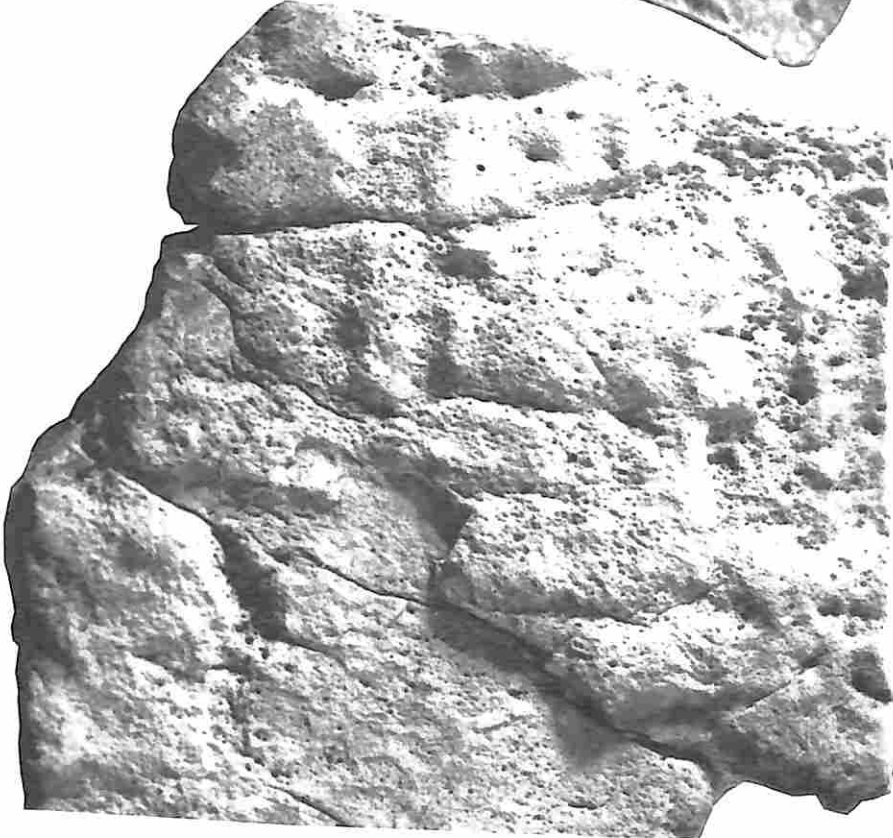


Front



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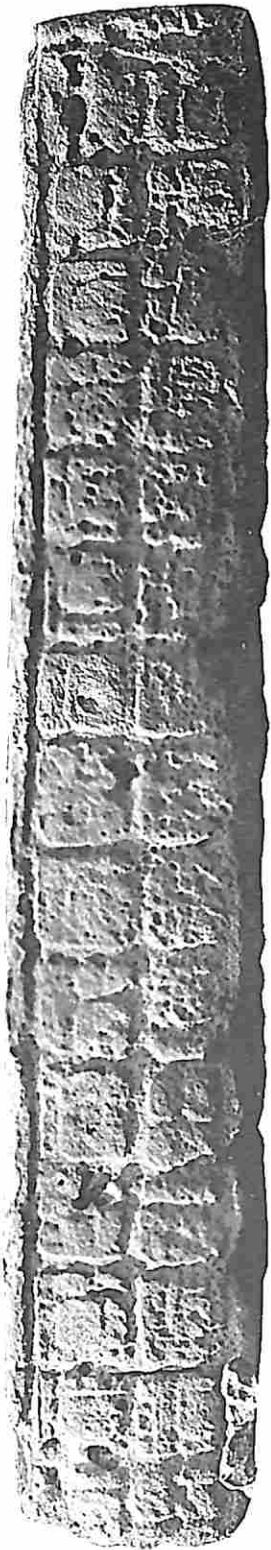
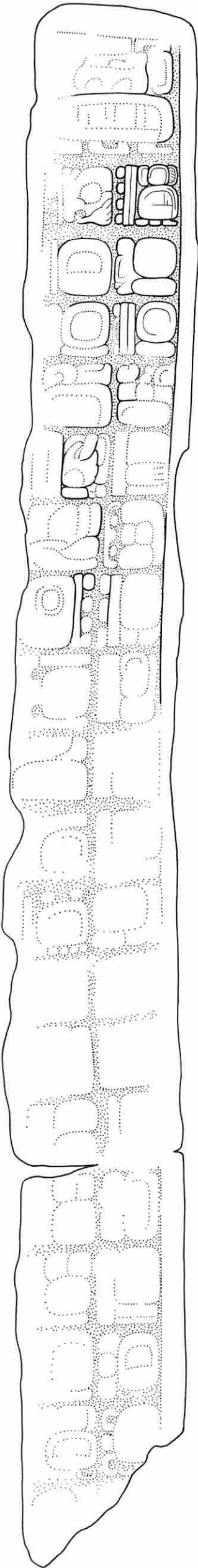






Left side

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Right side



# Piedras Negras, Stela 6

**LOCATION** Found face down by Maler in 1895 in the row of eight stelae set in front of Structure J-4, placed between Stelae 5 and 7. Now on display in the Museo Nacional de Arqueología y Etnología, Guatemala City.

**CONDITION** The stela is unbroken and well preserved, with only a small part of the upper left corner of the front (glyph column A) missing. The front remains in excellent condition, but the sides have suf-

fered considerable erosion. Red, green, and blue paint is still visible in recessed areas of the niche.

**MATERIAL** Limestone.

**SHAPE** Well-formed parallel sides and a flat top.

DIMENSIONS	Ht	2.9 m
	MW	81.0 cm
	MTh	38.0 cm

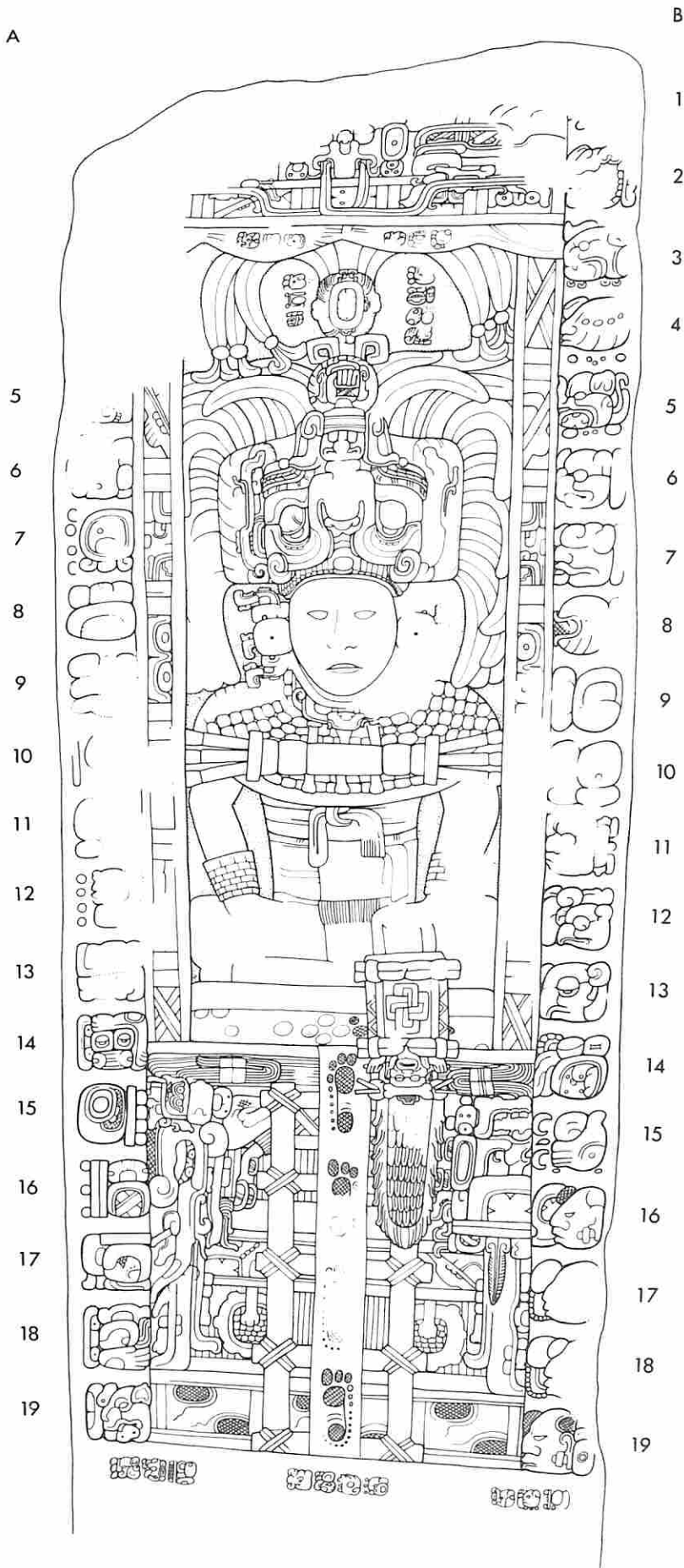
**CARVED AREAS** Front and sides.

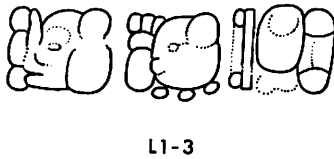
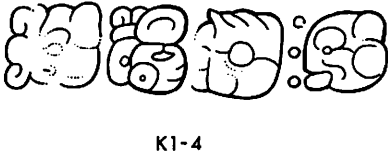
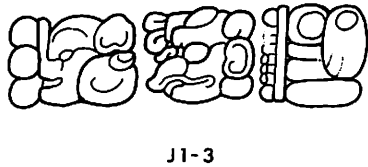
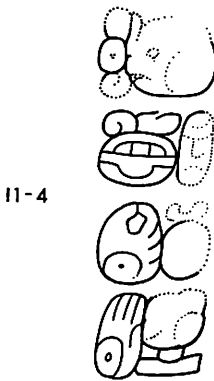
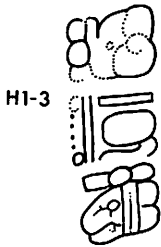
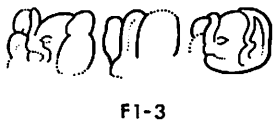
**PHOTOGRAPHS** Kerr (front) and CIW (left side, neg. no. H-21-5-20; right side, neg. no. H-21-5-21).

**DRAWINGS** Stuart, based on photographs and inspection of the original.

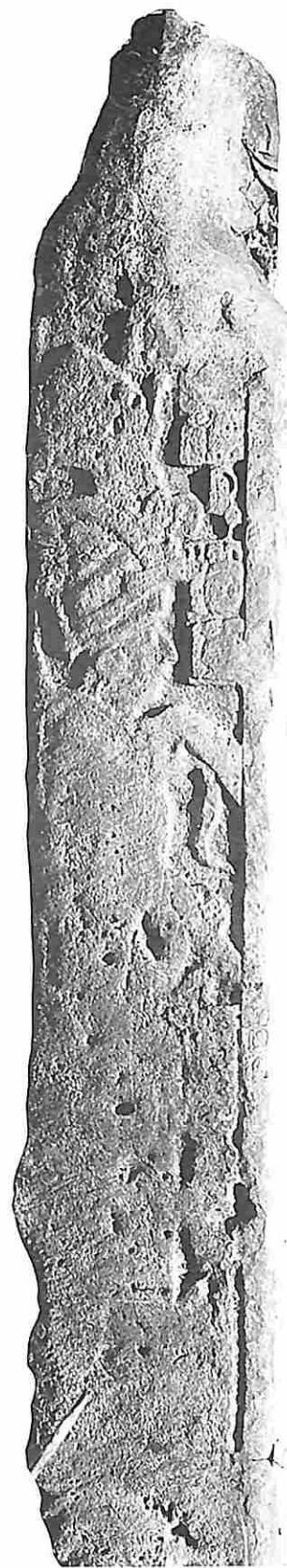


Front (© Justin Kerr, File no. K4897)

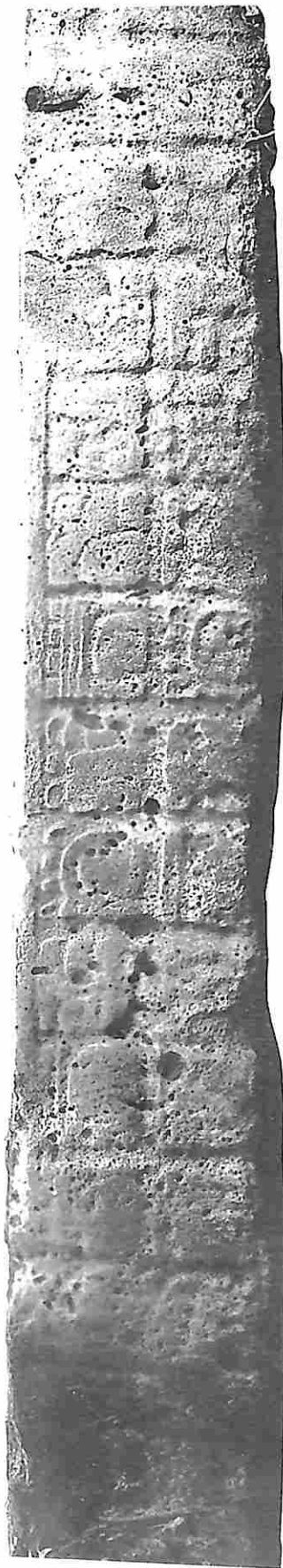
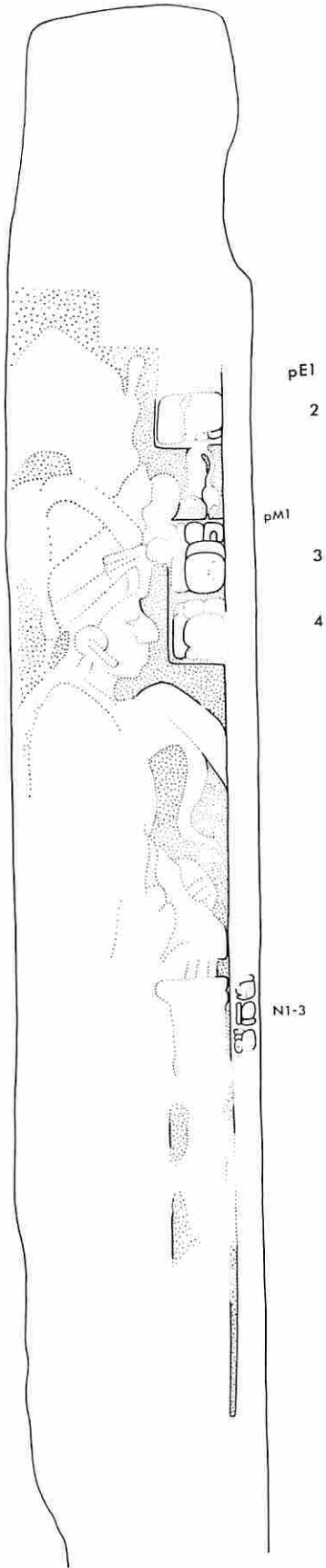




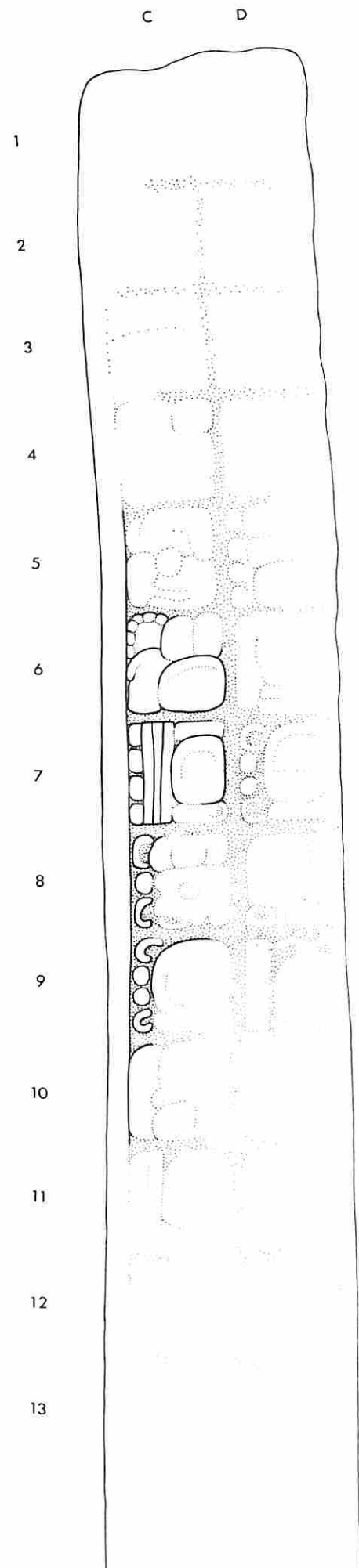
Details of front



Left side



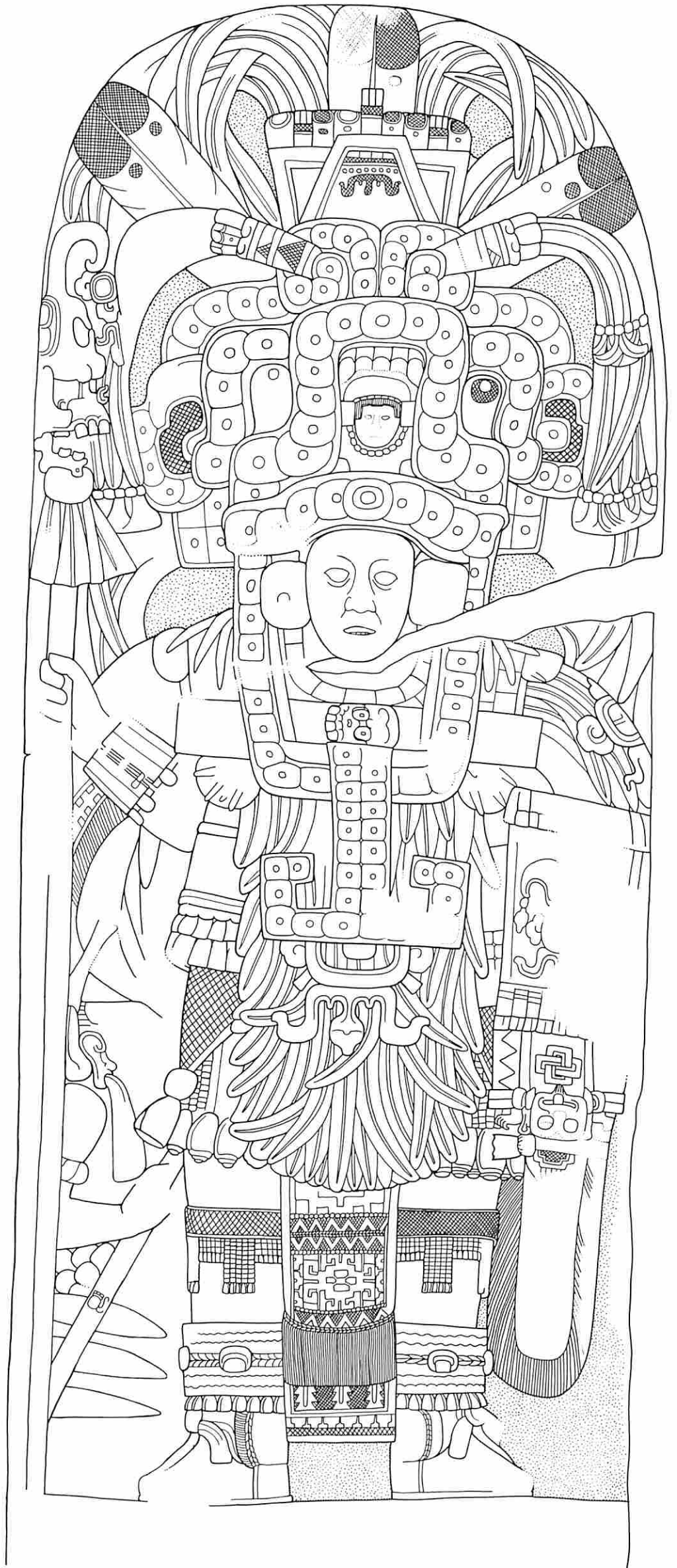
Right side







Front



Drawing at greater scale

LOCATION Originally placed in a row of eight monuments on the terrace before Structure J-4, between Stelae 6 and 8.

CONDITION Found by Maler broken into two pieces, with the front in nearly pristine condition, except for small areas where the sculpture had been chipped away. Maler (1901, p. 51) reported extensive remnants of red paint on the figures and blue and green colors on the central figure's costume. The low-relief design on the back was virtually destroyed, according to Maler. The inscriptions on the sides and top showed moderate to heavy erosion. The stela was subsequently sawn into pieces, with a large part of the top fragment ultimately making its way to Guatemala City, where it is now housed in the Museo Nacional. The current locations of other fragments are unknown.

MATERIAL Fine-grained limestone.

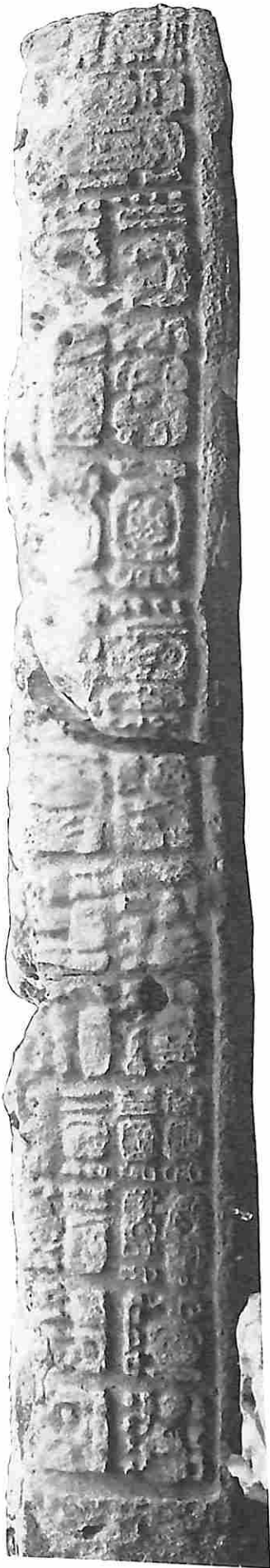
SHAPE Parallel sides with a rounded top.

DIMENSIONS	Ht	3.15 m
	MW	96.0 cm
	MTh	41.0 cm

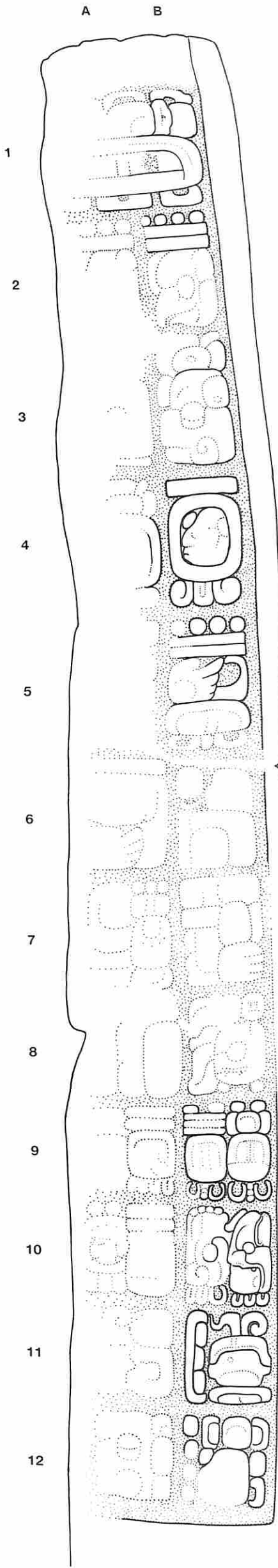
CARVED AREAS Front, back, and sides.

PHOTOGRAPHS Maler (front, PMAE nos. H7563 and H7564) and CIW (top, neg. no. H-29-1-25; left side, neg. no. H-29-1-26; right side, neg. no. H-36-129).

DRAWINGS Stuart, based exclusively on extant but incomplete photographic record by Maler, the University Museum, and the Carnegie Institution. The drawing of the right side is based solely on a rectification of the oblique image shown here, and therefore it is highly tentative in several areas. Evidently no complete photograph of those glyphs was ever taken before the stela was looted in the 1960s.

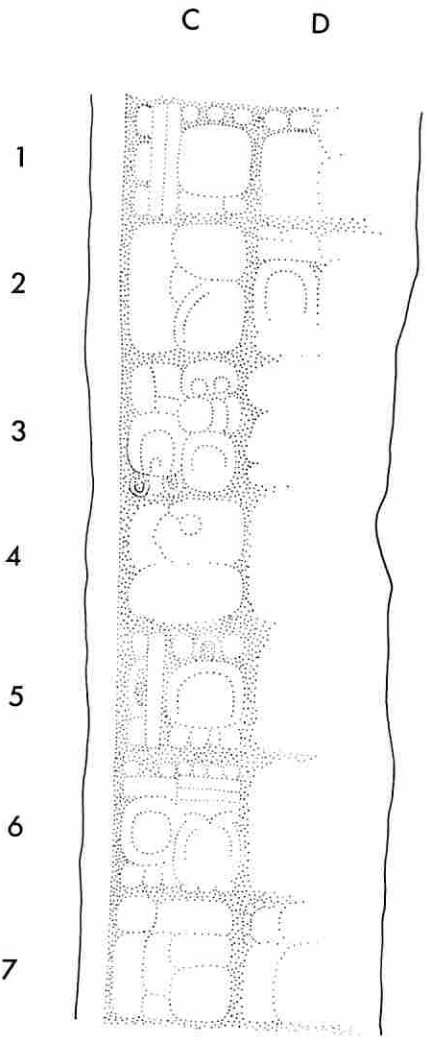


Left side





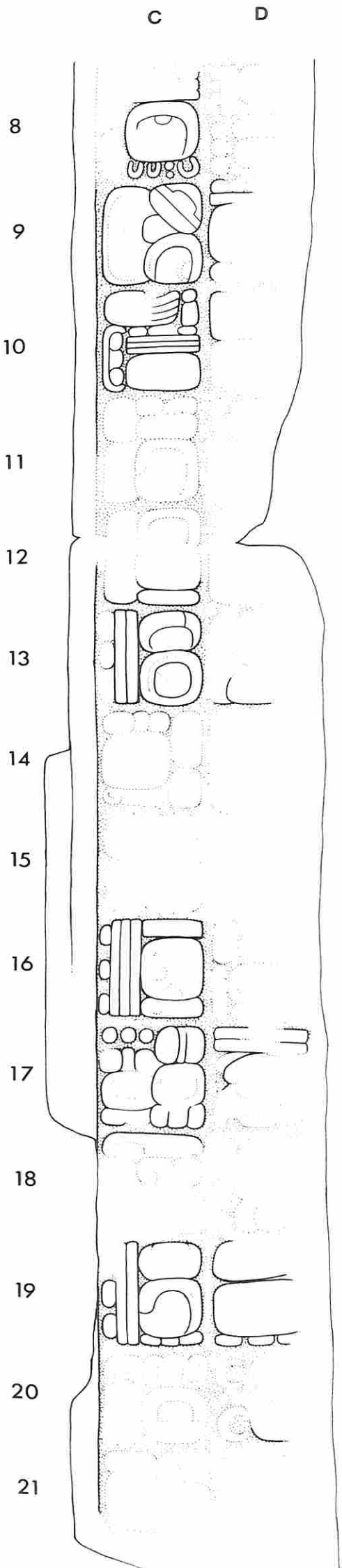
Top







Right side, oblique view



# Piedras Negras, Stela 8

PNG:St.8

9:43

**LOCATION** Originally placed as the easternmost in the row of eight stelae erected on the terrace in front of Structure J-4. Like Stela 1, it seems to have been set off of the small platform bearing Stelae 2 through 7.

**CONDITION** Found by Maler in 1895 broken into three large pieces and lying face down, with a portion of the butt still in situ. Several smaller fragments were broken from the right edge. At the time of discovery, the front was in excellent condition and the lower areas had nearly pristine carving with traces of red, blue, and green paint (Maler 1901, p. 51). In the mid-1960s looters removed several fragments, including most of the upper half. The current whereabouts of these pieces are unknown. The low relief sculpture on the back surface is almost completely obliterated by weathering.

**MATERIAL** Fine-grained yellowish limestone.

**SHAPE** Parallel sides with a flat top.

**DIMENSIONS**

Ht	>4.00 m
HLC	3.20 m
PB	>1.05 m
MW	1.30 m
MTh	0.43 m
Rel	11.4 cm

**CARVED AREAS** Front, back, and composites of sides by Graham and CIW.

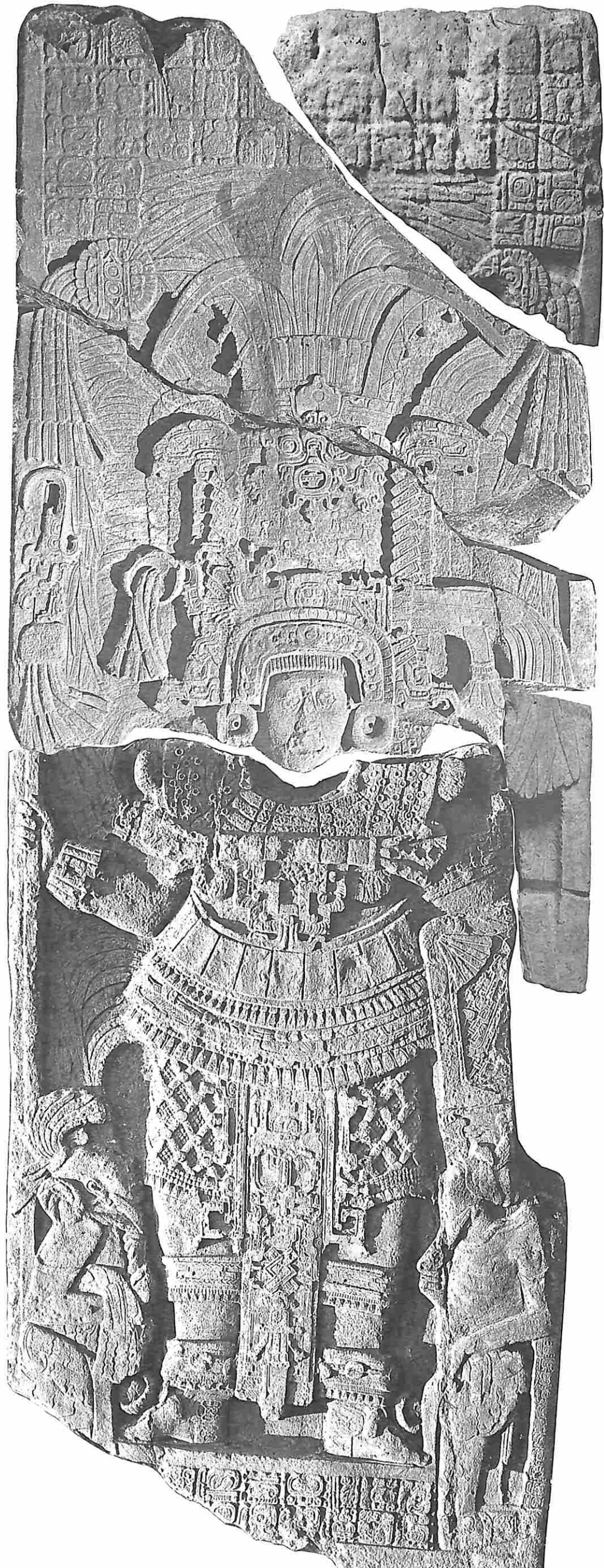
**PHOTOGRAPHS** Maler (front, including details and secondary text, PMAE nos. H7576, H7566, neg. no. N31540), Graham (front, upper right fragment, CMHI neg. no. 1743/2; back, CMHI neg. no. 1932/1; left side, top fragment, CMHI neg. no. 1690/1), and CIW (left side, neg. nos. H-29-1-27, H-29-1-28; right side, neg. no. H-21-5-31).

**DRAWINGS** Stuart, based on photographs by Maler and Graham and on Graham's field drawings of the extant fragments. Two glyphs from the secondary text (Y1 and Y2) are taken from Morley's field notes.

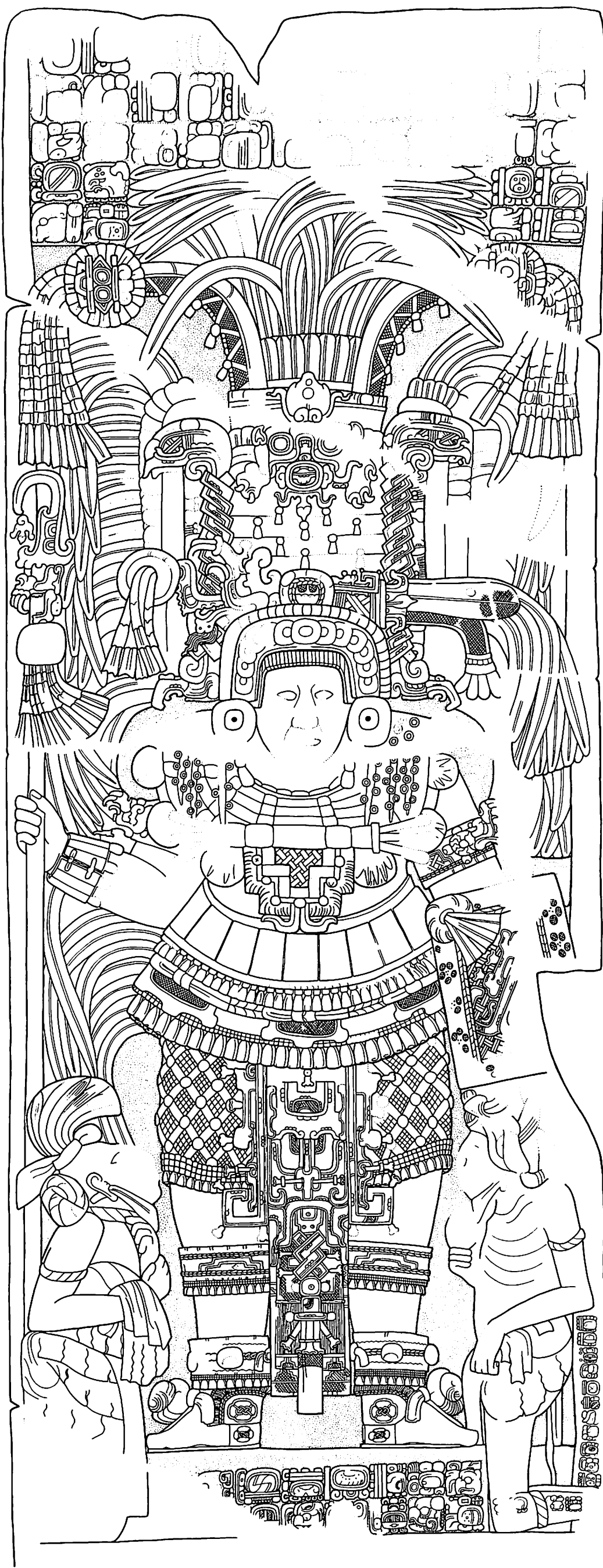
**NOTES** Small portions of the front carving lack any adequate photographic record, thus lending some uncertainty to corresponding areas in the drawing. The extreme lower left corner and a small fragment on the right side, at glyph block W8, are especially unclear.

Morley's designations of the glyph blocks have been changed to reflect the correct reading order of the main text, leading from the left side to the front and then to the right side.

Morley made note of four incised glyphs above the shoulder of the right-hand captive figure (1938, p. 136). These are obscured by a dark shadow in Maler's photo, and no other record of them is known other than Morley's sketch of two glyphs that presumably began this secondary text.



Front







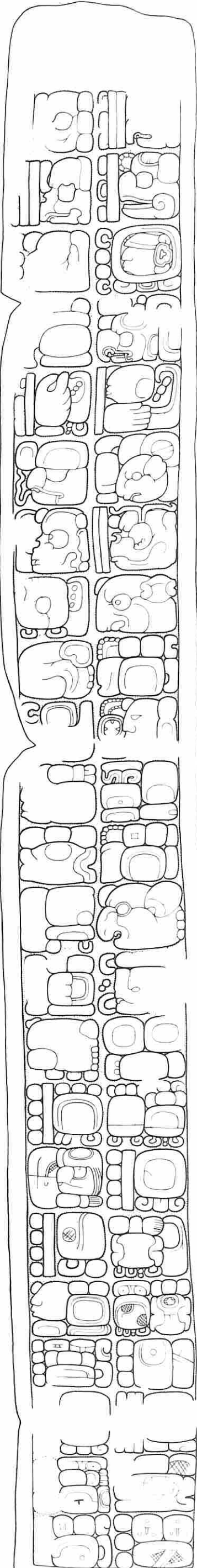
Back

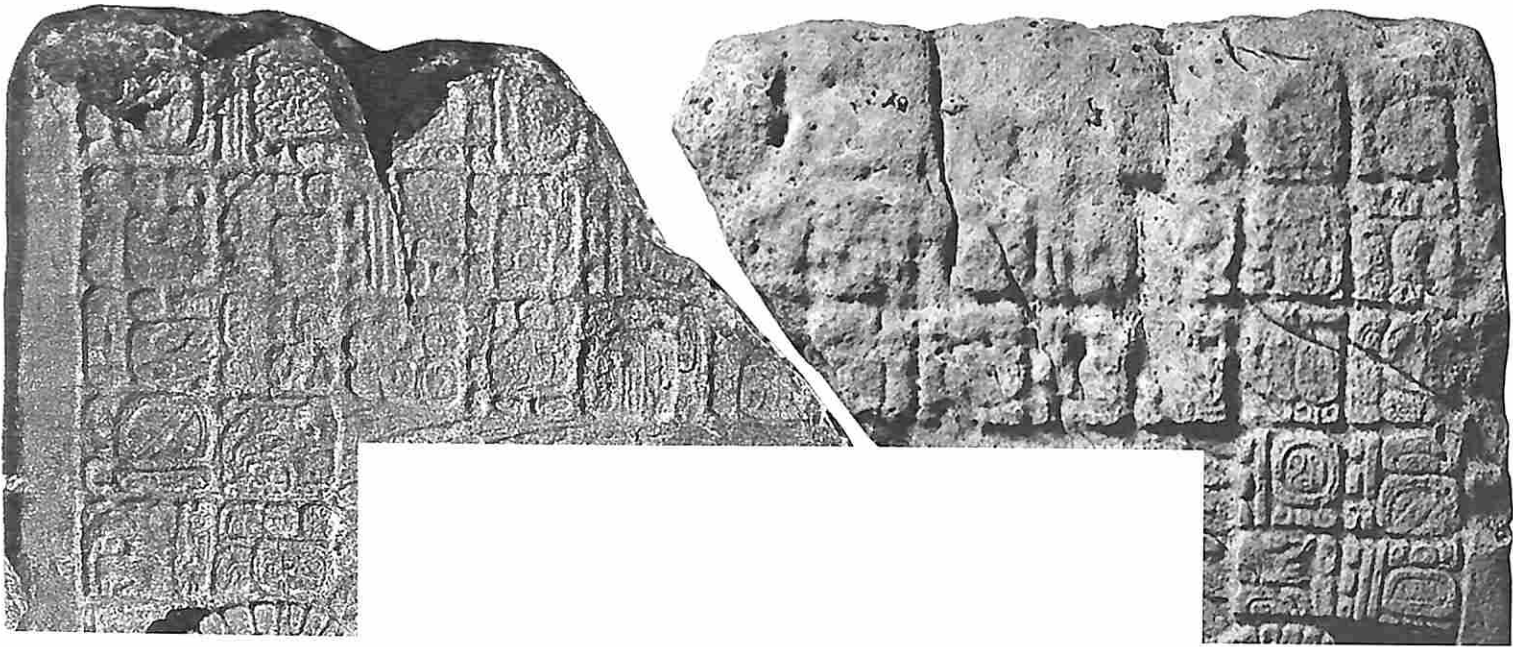




Left side

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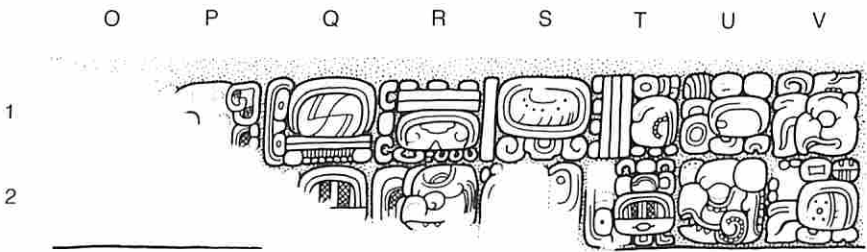
Details of front inscription



Drawing at greater scale

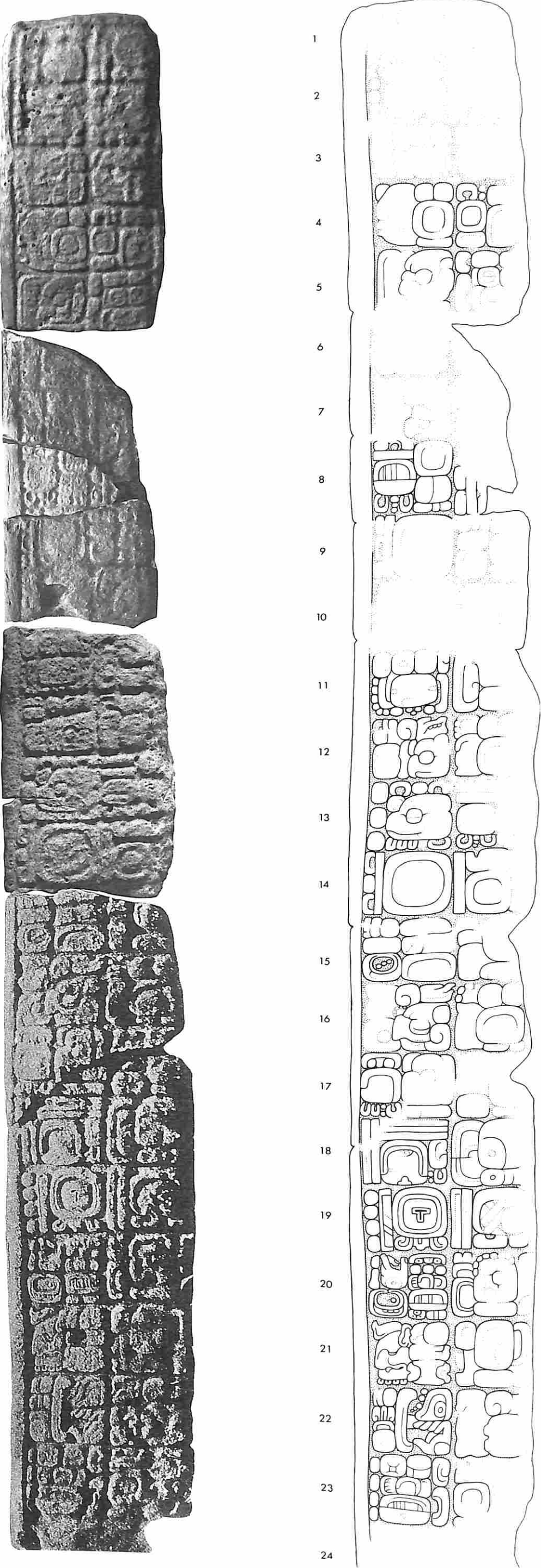


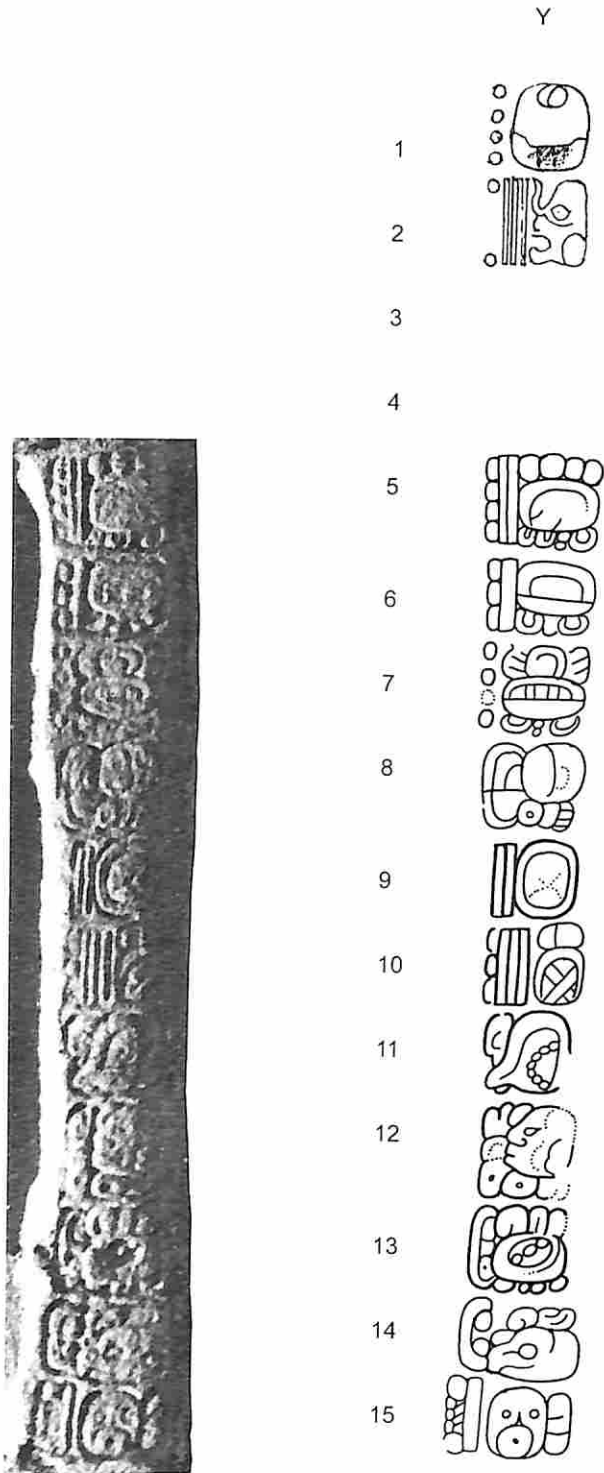
Details of front inscription



Drawing at greater scale

Right side

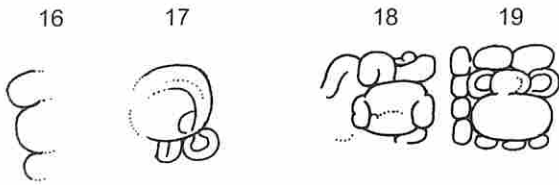




Details of secondary text



Details of secondary text





# Piedras Negras, Stela 9

**LOCATION** Found by Maler in 1899 on the large terrace to the east of Structure J-3, originally having been placed between Stelae 10 and 40.

**CONDITION** Maler discovered three large, moderately weathered fragments. Portions of the figure's headdress were in good condition, but other areas were less so. The bottom, later discovered by the University Museum project and still in situ, also exhibits well-preserved areas of sculpture. The upper right corner is missing. During the 1960s, looters removed the captive figure seen at the lower left of the front.

**MATERIAL** Hard, fine-grained limestone.

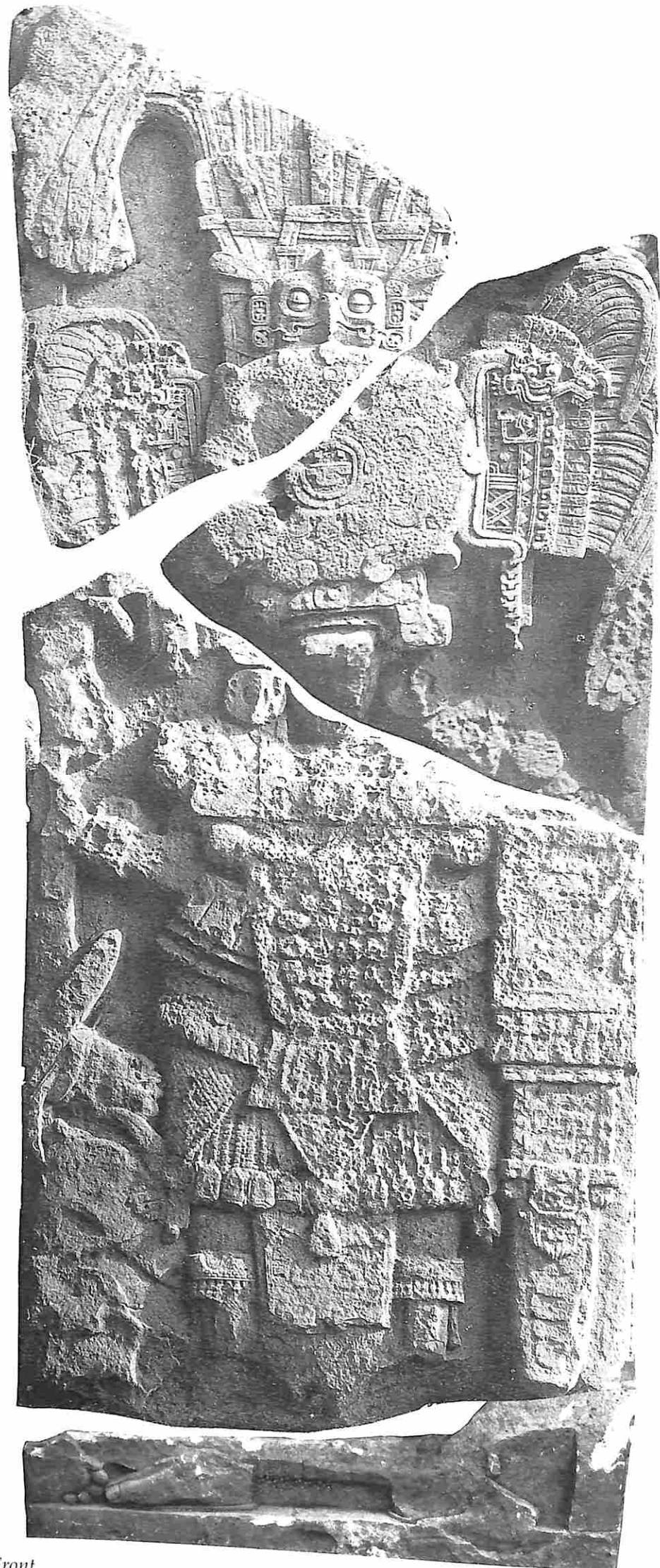
**SHAPE** Parallel sides and flat top.

<b>DIMENSIONS</b>	Ht	2.85 m
	MW	1.09 m
	WBC	1.03 m
	MTh	41.0 cm

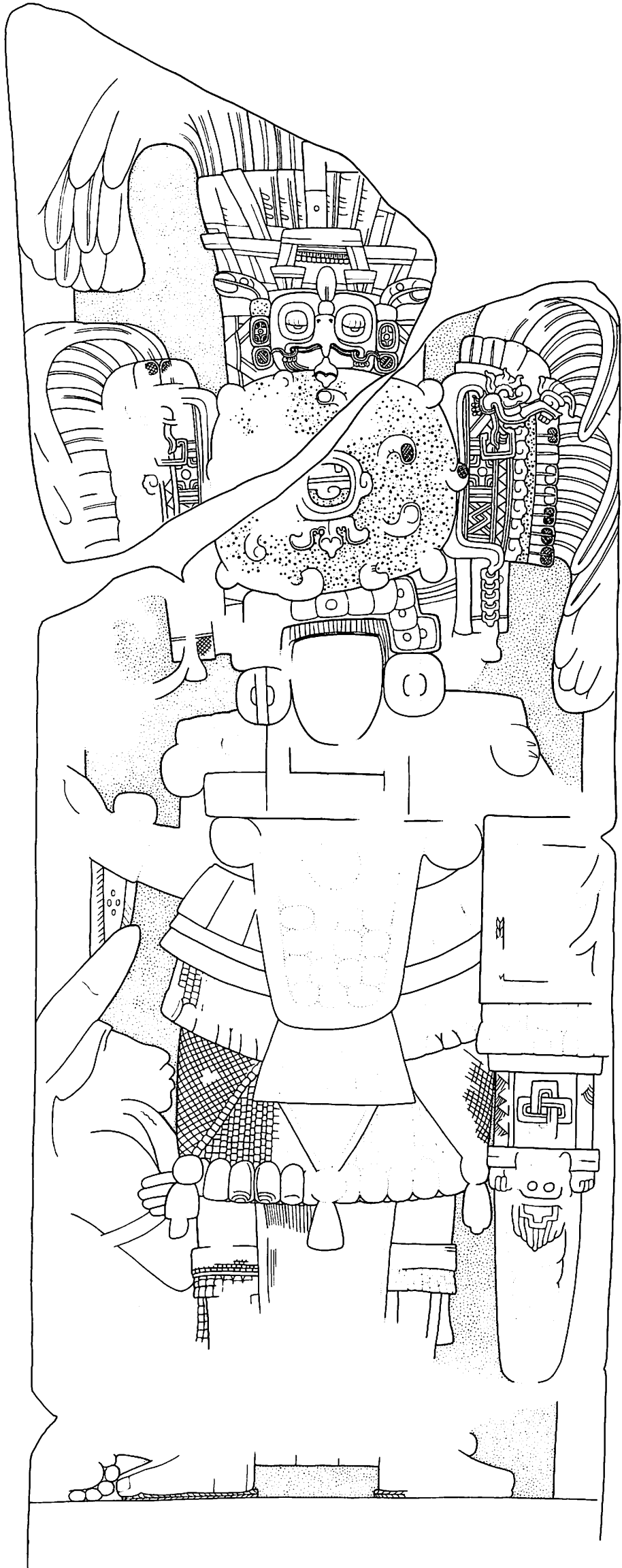
**CARVED AREAS** Front and sides.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Maler (front, upper fragments, PMAE neg. no. N3151), UM (front, lower fragment, neg. no. NC35-15771), CIW (left side, neg. no. H-31-3-186), and Graham (right side, CMHI neg. nos. 1889/1, 1887/2,4).

**DRAWINGS** Stuart, based on Maler's images and field drawings by Graham.



Front



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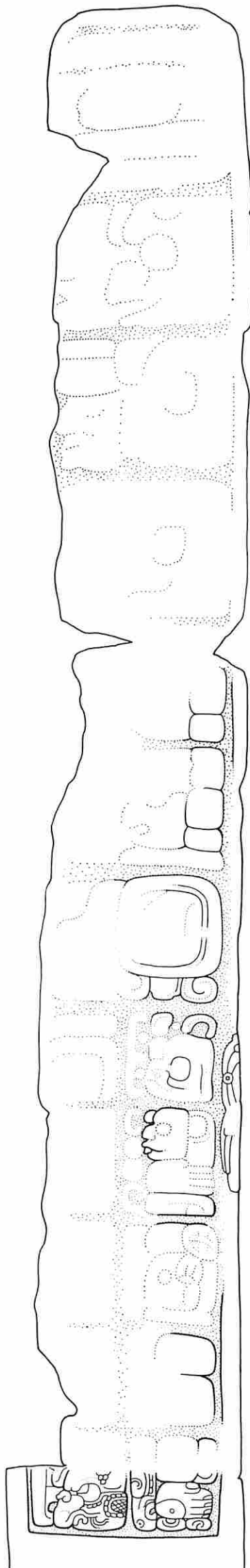
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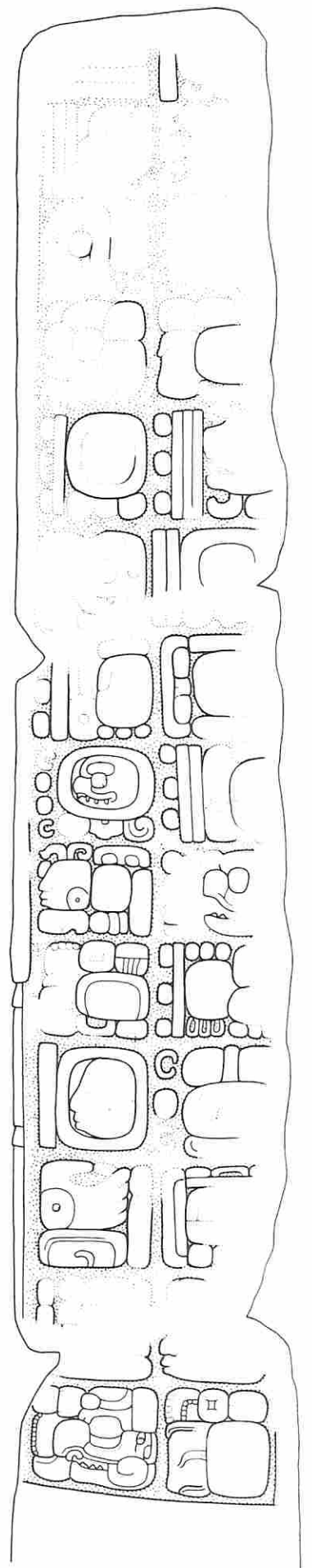
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Left side

Right side



# Piedras Negras, Stela 10

PNG:St.10

9:53

**LOCATION** Found in 1899 by Maler on the terrace in front of Structure J-3, between Stelae 9 and 11.

**CONDITION** Maler encountered two large fragments. The top fell face up, and suffered heavy erosion on its front; the sides, however, were in good condition. By contrast, the front of the bottom fragment, having fallen face down, was very well preserved, but the sides were obliterated. A century of weathering has led to the loss of most of the detail once visible on the lower half of the front.

**MATERIAL** Hard, fine-grained limestone.

**SHAPE** Roughly parallel sides with a flat top.

**DIMENSIONS**

Ht	4.10 m
MW	1.02 m
MTh	0.51 m

**CARVED AREAS** Front and sides.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Maler (front, lower fragment, PMAE no. H7552), Graham (front, upper fragment, CMHI neg. no. 1716/3,4; left side, CMHI neg. no. 1920/2; right side, CMHI neg. no. 1796/1).

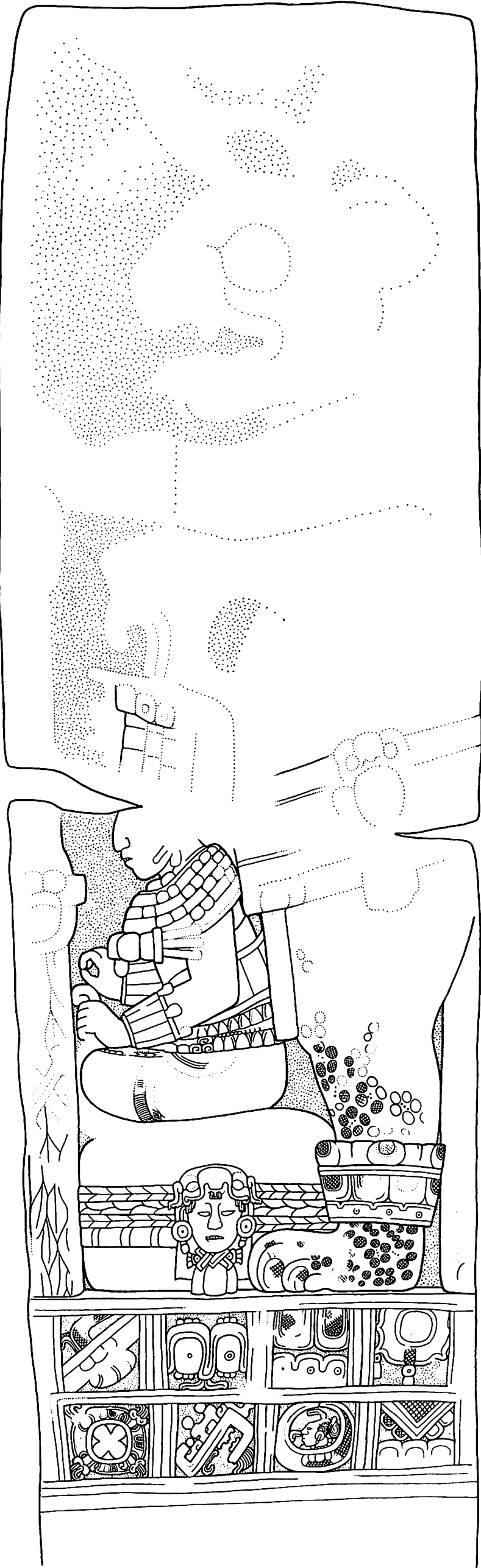
**DRAWINGS** Stuart, based on photographs and inspection of surviving fragments.



Front

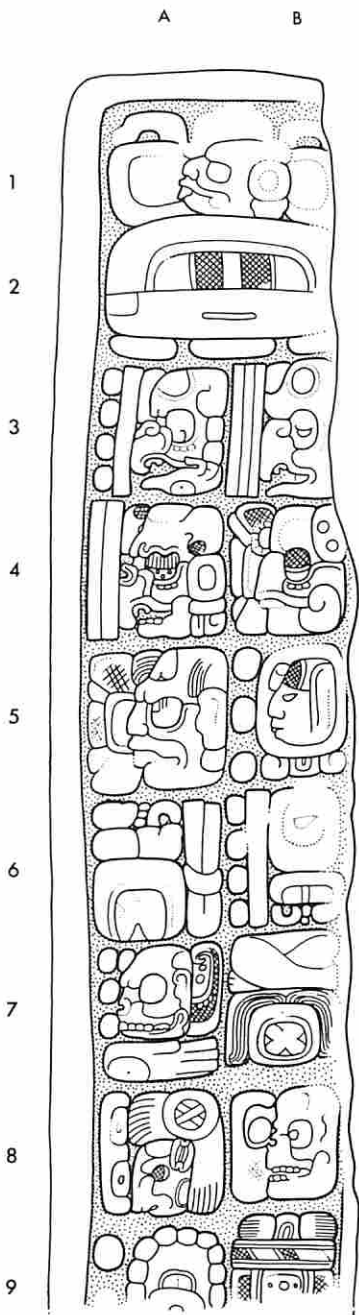


pE

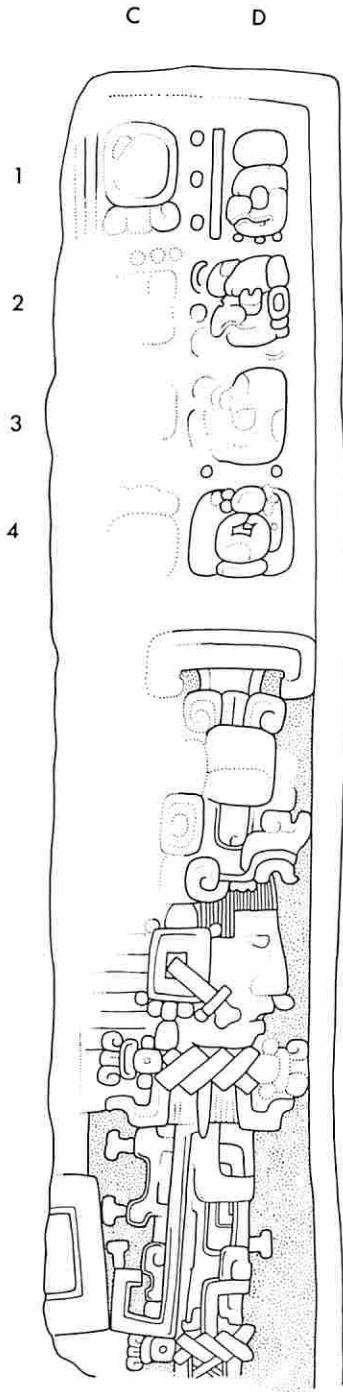




Left side



Right side



# Piedras Negras, Stela 11

**LOCATION** Originally erected on the terrace before Structure J-3, to the right of Stela 10. In the 1960s looters sawed the sculpture into smaller sections for easy removal. The ruler's figure now resides in the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (accession number 68-51). In the early 1990s the lower half was reportedly in private hands in Switzerland.

**CONDITION** Maler discovered the monument fallen face down and broken into two large pieces. The front was in very fine condition, with extensive remains of red, blue, and green paint on the niche figure (Morley 1938, p. 192). The sides were also well preserved, although the glyphs of the upper right side suffered moderate weathering.

**MATERIAL** Hard, fine-grained limestone.

**SHAPE** Parallel sides and a flat top.

DIMENSIONS	HLC	3.04 m
	PB	1.00 m approx.
	MW	1.09 m
	WBC	1.07 m
	MTh	46.0 cm
	Rel	12.0 cm (niche)

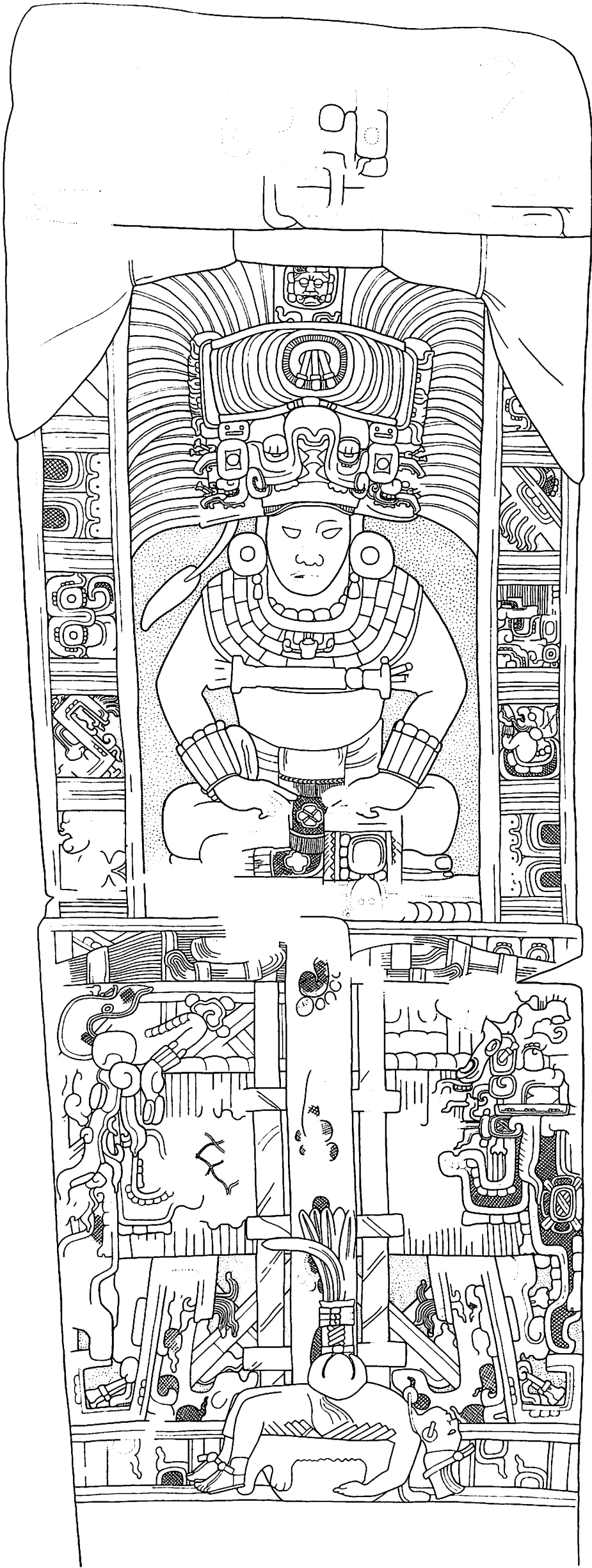
**CARVED AREAS** Front and sides.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Maler (front, PMAE no. H2107), Godfrey (front, oblique view), Graham (detail of niche figure, CMHI neg. no. 1783/2), and CIW (left side, neg. no. H-36-132; right side, neg. no. H-21-5-40a).

**DRAWINGS** Stuart, based solely on photographs and on Graham's inspection of the figure in Houston. The drawing of the right side has been rectified from the only oblique photographs that exist.



Front







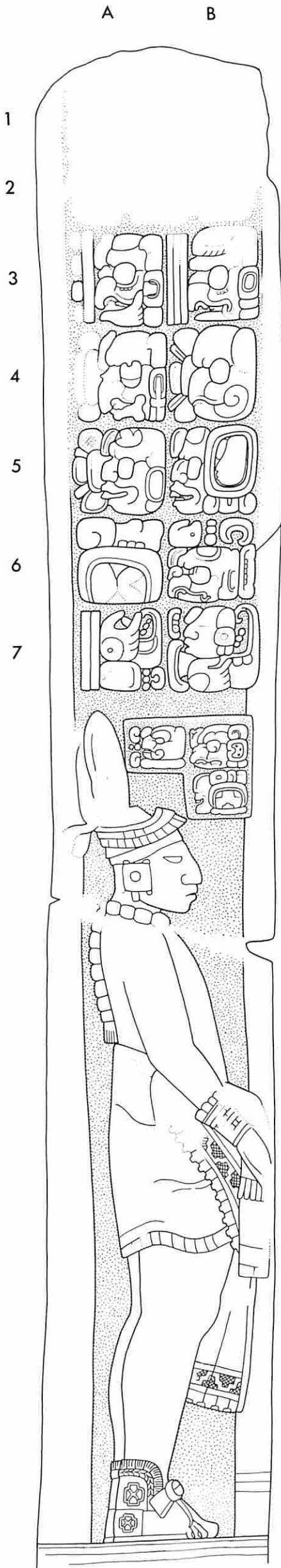
*Front, partial oblique view*



*Detail, niche figure*



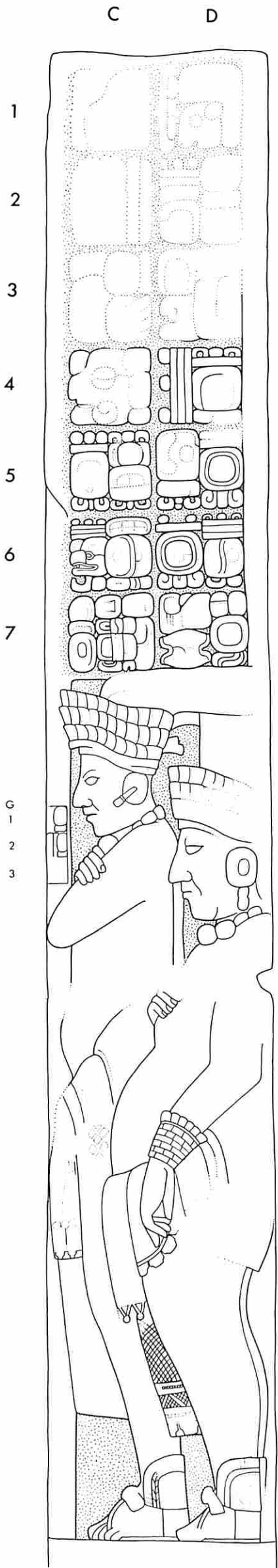
Left side



E F  
1 2



Right side



G  
1 2 3



# Piedras Negras, Stela 12

**LOCATION** The fallen lower half was found by Maler in three fragments "in a little open square" on the upper terrace of Structure O-13, near its southeast corner (Maler 1901, p. 60). The large top fragment had evidently fallen down the pyramid, coming to rest on the lowermost terrace. The assembled stela was removed to Philadelphia by the University Museum in 1932 and later returned to Guatemala, where it is now on display at the Museo Nacional de Arqueología y Etnología.

**CONDITION** Broken into four large fragments, all of which fell face down. The front was nearly pristine when seen by Maler, and vestiges of bright red paint were still visible in 1899. Many details have since been lost because of erosion and exposure to the elements. The monument's original thickness was reduced by nearly 10 cm in places because of severe erosion on the back. This has resulted in the loss of many glyphs from the side inscriptions.

**MATERIAL** Hard, fine-grained limestone.

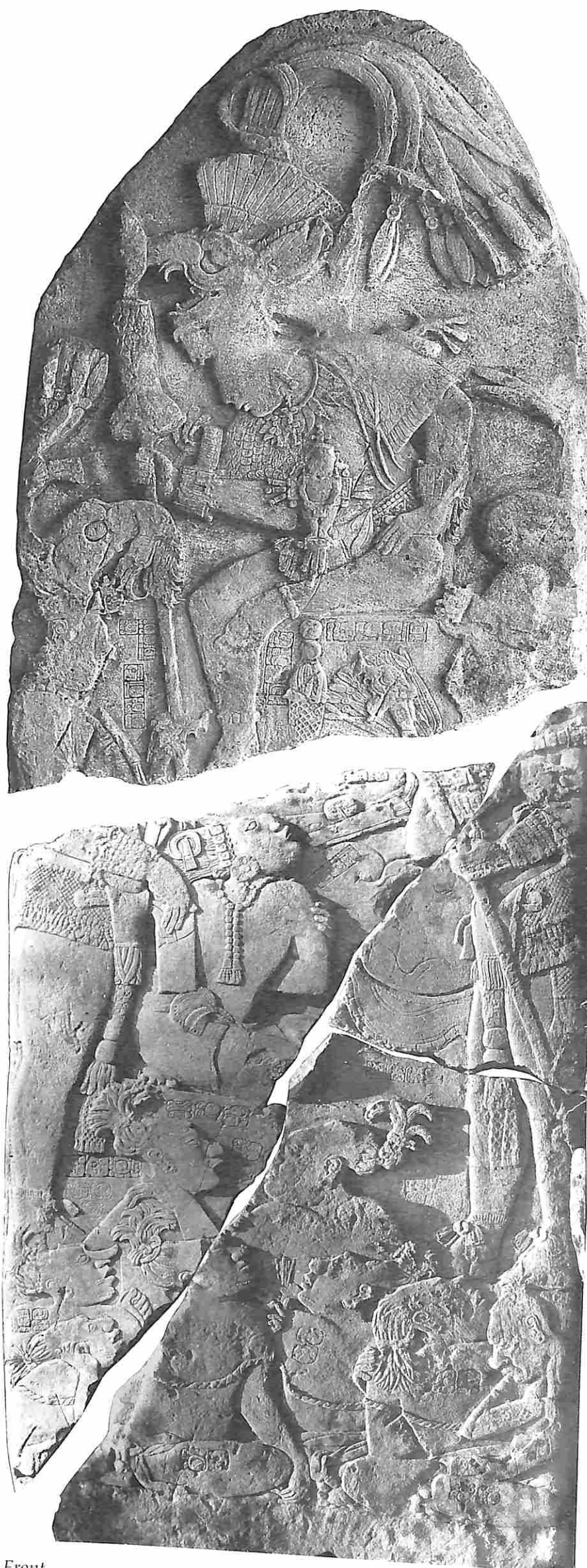
**SHAPE** Parallel sides with a somewhat pointed top.

DIMENSIONS	HLC	3.02 m
	PB	1.00 m approx.
	MW	1.03 m
	MTh	>43.0 cm
	Rel	5.0 cm max.

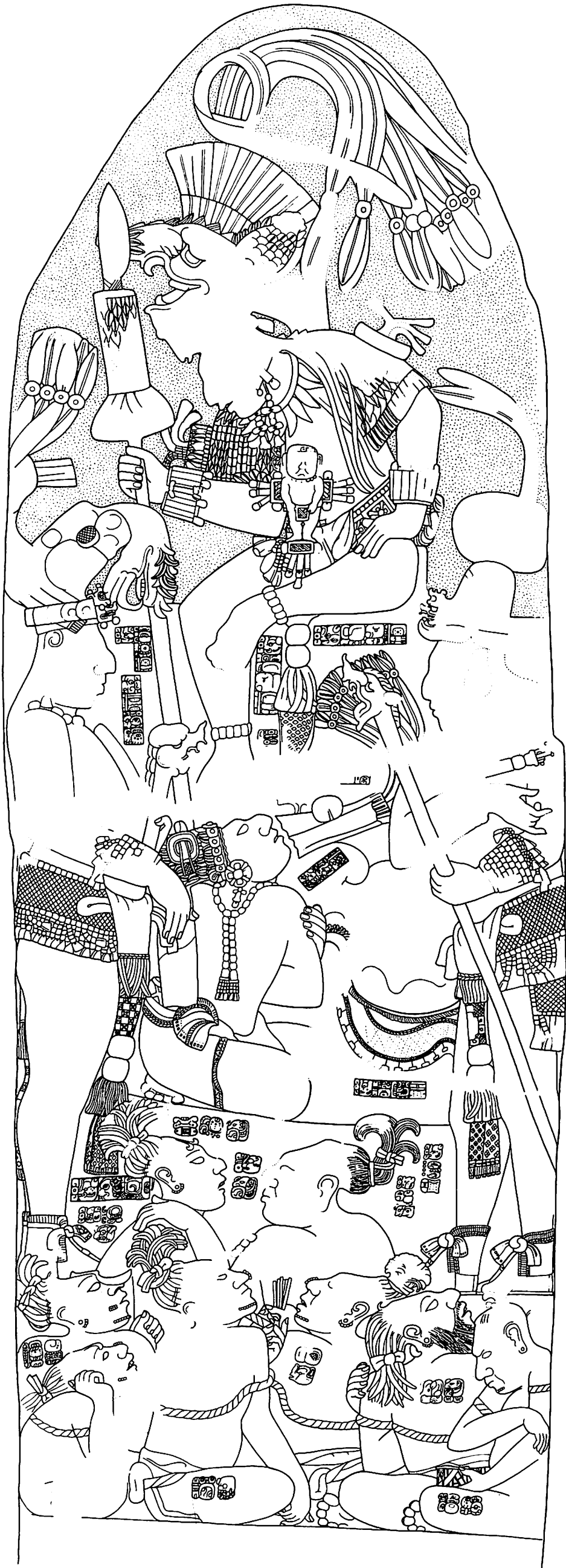
**CARVED AREAS** Front and sides; any carving that may have been on the stela's back is completely effaced.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Maler (front, CMHI neg. no. 5191) and UM (left side, neg. no. NC35-19238; right side, neg. no. NC35-19330).

**DRAWINGS** Stuart, based on Maler's photographs and inspection of the original.



Front

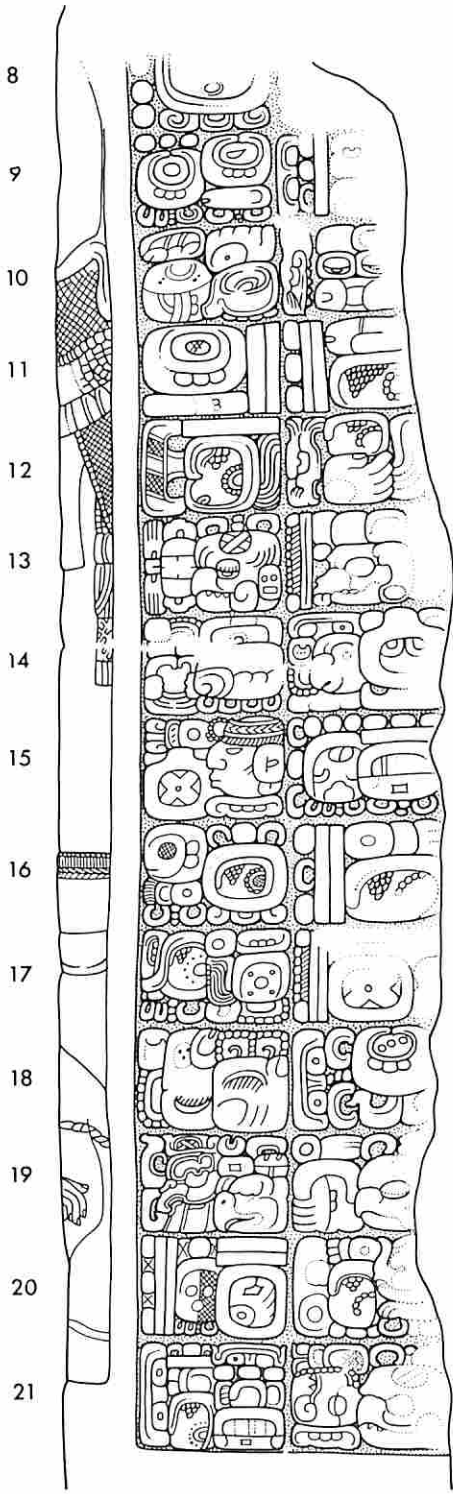


At greater scale





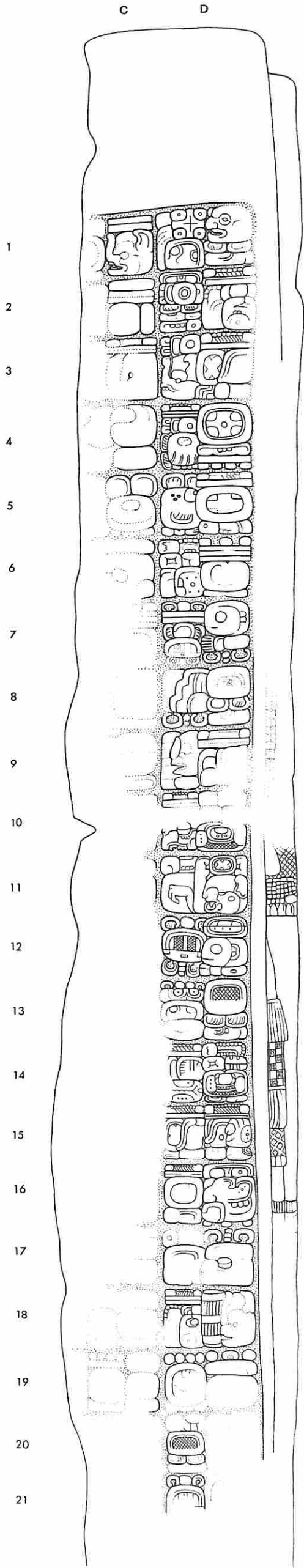
Right side



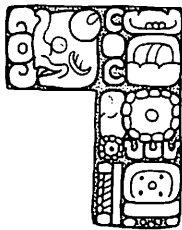
At greater scale



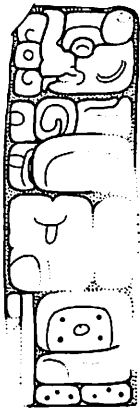
Left side



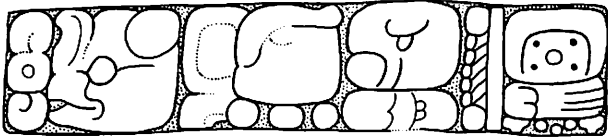
At greater scale



E1-4



G1-4



I1-4



F1-4



J1-2



H1-2



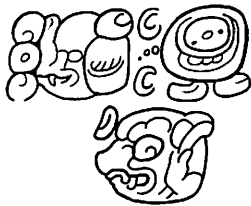
K1-3



L1-3



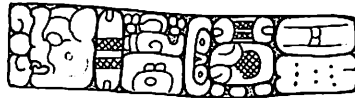
N1-3



M1-3



O1-2



P1-4



S1-2



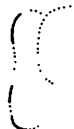
V1-2



Q1-3



R1-3



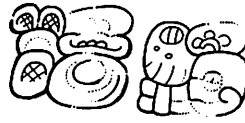
T



U1-2



W1-2



X1-2

Details of glyphs on the front